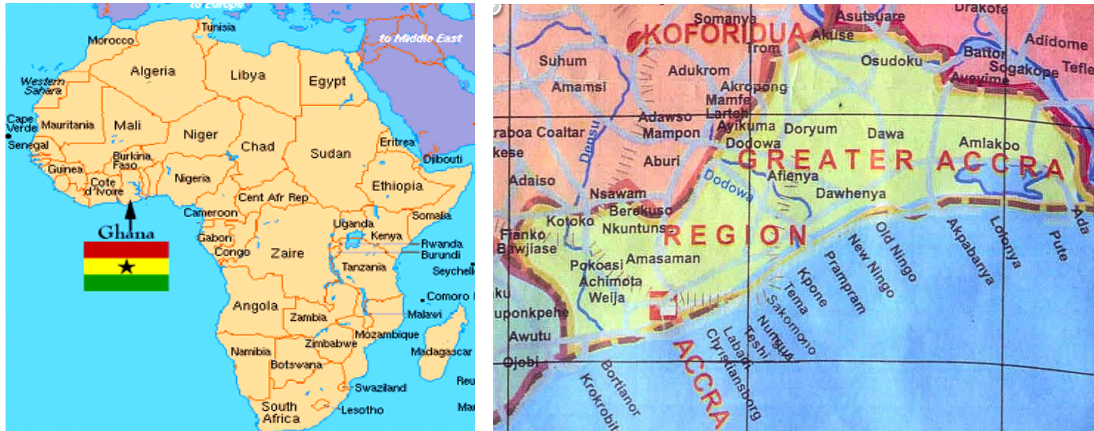


Ga History



Oral history traces our ancestry from the old Egypt empire (ie Egypt, Ethiopia, Sudan and the tribes along the Nile River). Gas are said to have lived predominantly on the southern parts of the River Nile which is present day South of Sudan.

Between 1700-1250 BC, the then Egyptian king, King Thuthmos 2 ruled over the Hebrews who were slaves of war. The Hebrews spread across the whole land; from Goshen (north of Egypt, R. Nile's mouth) to the south of the Nile which is the south of Sudan. Due to this, the Ga and Hebrew cultures greatly influence each others. We can see evidence of some of these in : The naming of children on the 8th day (Exodus 12 vs 19); Male circumcision (also only done after the 8th day); Patrilineal nature of Gas (inheritance from father side); The importance of Wulɔmɔ (Chief Priest) among the Gas; “Gbii kpaanyo anina wɔ”, an extract from from Hɔmɔwɔ greetings – (Exodus 12 vs 19); Hɔmɔwɔ celebrations on the 2nd Sunday of august. These are but a few examples we can talk of the similarities in Ga and Hebrew cultures. It must also be noted that, in those days, Gas didn't have scholars writing all their history down so they were all oral traditions. But then we can find evidence of what was passed down orally in the history of others like the Hebrews, Ethiopia and Egypt the super power.

It is believed that Gas may have also undergone the hash treatment the Hebrews had to endure, hence the celebration of “Hɔmɔwɔ = Passover” which has changed due to a great faming experienced by the Gas along the way; long after they left Egypt(S/Ethiopia).

At about 1250BC, the then king of Egypt, **King Amenhotep 2** (7th Pharaoh of Egypt)couldn't stand any longer the suffering of his people at the hands of God almighty. So he decided to let them go with Moses so that his people would be free from all those calamities they suffered. This was after about 430yrs of slavery. At this point, it should be noted that it wasn't just the Israelites that left, two more groups of people left their lands to go as far away as possible from Egypt. The three groups of people that left Egypt were:-

Group Goshen:

This first group was made up of the 12 Tribes of Israel and we can find the history/story in the Holy Bible (Numbers 1 vs 26-47). The Holy Bible tells us that, there were about 603,550 Hebrews who left Egypt; this number did not include women, children, old people nor the house of Levi (priests). Moses and his brother Aaron under the direction of God, lead them to cross the Red Sea onto **Palistinia**.

Group Ethiopia:

These were the people who lived South of Goshen along the eastern parts of the Nile river. They travelled south-east towards the Horn of Africa. They were originally called **Kush**. They once had a very famous and strong leader, Queen Sheba who's story is in the Holy Bible.

Ga group:

This was the 3rd group that left Egypt, and it consisted of all the other tribes who lived South of Goshen along the western parts of the Nile river. This group was further split into 2 groups; with the first group travelling straight on the western path and the second, which was the GaDangbe travelled south-west.

As the Gas travelled south, they came across many rivers like the Ghazal and Jebe rivers; these rivers were tributaries of the Nile on the north. The gas travelled along these rivers until they came to another river called Ubangi (found on the north of Congo). They then followed River Congo to its estuary (where it enters the sea) where they stayed for a long time; this place was called Boma near the beach town **Cabinda in Congo (Zaire), but today it's part on Angola**.

It's not known how many years it took the Gas to get to Boma, neither do we know how long they stayed here before moving on to their present home in Ghana. But it is evident that they lived in Boma for a very long time, had it not been that, our ancestor wouldn't have spoken so much about Boma. It is believed that one of the prominent kings in our history, **Nii Okarɔ Njmasi** had said that, him and his people came from Boma. **Nii Okarɔ Njmasi** who helped **Nuumo Trɛbi** of **Nuɔua** to find and make/form Tɛshi. So that is where the name **Tɛshi-Aboma**, a suburb in Tɛshi came from.

After what is believed to have been a very long stay in Boma, the Gas decided once again that it was time to continue the search for a land of their own. This time, time they did the travelling by sea till they came to the Bonny Island, not far from Opobo Township; located on the south of Port Harcourt-Nigeria. Here the Gas divided themselves into two groups; one group travelled west towards mainland Nigeria to a place called Benin, where as the other group moved south-west to Ife where they lived among the locals. The journey in search of unoccupied lands began again for the GaDangbe people of Ghana after living in Boma, Bone, Benin and Ife for so many years.

At this point the Ga group has now been divided into four (Wo Kpele, Wo Krowɔ, Wo Doku and Wo sagba) before leaving Nigeria. We will talk about these groups and where they finally settled in Ghana later. All four groups were lead by their own Wulɔmɔ (Chief Priest) and due to the many wars they had to fight, they chose a 'Tatsɛ' (warrior) in the hierarchy to lead in times of wars and also to train the young men to learn to fight.

All the four groups/clans at some point or the other came through Sekor or Fla on the Togo-Benin boarder. From here, they came to **Anehɔ-Togo** in the Volta region of Ghana where the Ewe people had already settled and made villages for themselves. Gas stayed amongst the Ewes for a number of years until such a time that they thought it wise to continue their journey. The gas are said to have lived peacefully with the Ewes in Anehɔ, but it wasn't without a fight in the beginning. It must also be noted that at every stage of their travels, not all were able to continue the journey; which is why you can find traces of the GaDagbe language and even names in all the above places today. When Gas left Anehɔ finally, each of the four groups we mentioned earlier had some of their people staying because they didn't the point in going when they're finally experiencing some peace. The Gas that stayed behind were named '**Ayigbe people**', which is from the phrase 'Ayi megbe' ; meaning, those who said 'No' to 'going'. But today some people refer to the Ewes as Ayigbe people, which isn't really them. History tells us that the Ga group that had more of their people staying in Anehɔ was the 'Wo Sagba'; who were the last of the Ga groups to have left. They even instated a King at a place called **Gligi** in the northern parts of Anehɔ. Long after the Gas had left Anehɔ, most families would go back to visit their members there.

The four GaDangbe groups settled in Accra as follows:

Wo Kpele; They settled in Tema

Wo Krowɔ; They settled at Nunua

Wo Doku; They settled at La Bone

Wo sagba; They settled at Ga Mashi

Tɛshi, Osu and other GaDangbe states were found/ formed later.