

Cover sheet for an interview conducted in Zambia:

Mr. Kangasa [Spider] Mutembu

7th December 1976 in Mwinilunga

Brief Biographical sketch (created after the interview, n.d.):

Born: 1914(?)
1930: Taught school in the mission
1936-7: Studied Standard IV — passed in 1938
1940: Passed Standard VI at Kalene — First in Mwinilunga area:
(“Kañesa Mutemba, Standard VI government certificate,
20th August 1943, No. 732”)
1945: Joined mines (on Copperbelt)
1950: Rejoined ffolliott Fisher
1965-70: Worked for Mr. Rae (missionary-affiliated businessman) in Mwinilunga boma

General note on all interviews and interviewees: These cover sheets were created from old notes 25 years ago. They contain key manuscript information in each interviewee’s file. Often there is a short chronology of the interviewee’s life written at the time of the interview. Most interviewees by this time (2006) are deceased; hence the huge potential value of this old interview. All interviews focused on education in the North West Province of Zambia mainly in the period from World War II until the 1970s. They often contain information on other topics that in some way related to education. All interviewees were in some way leaders of their own community or missionaries who had spent much of their life in the N.W.P. Most interview transcripts contain rectangular boxes for, or with, 5 numbers. These were used to code key data for research and writing in this pre-computer era. These codes are now meaningless for me and for any one else. Unless noted otherwise, these interviewees can be used by scholars without restrictions.

7/15/2006

INTERVIEW: MR. K. ^{angasa}MUTEMBU by Mr. Wilkin at Mwinilunga Township on the evening of 7th December 1976 in Mr. Mutembu's Home. c/o Zabukenu Stores, Mwinilunga

Mr. Wilkin: I am now interviewing Mr. Mutembu. I shall ask him to give his full name and say something about himself.

Mr. Mutembu: My real name is Kangasa Mutembu. But people are used to calling me "Spider", but I don't like it. It is a nickname, and people are now used to it.

I would like to mention a bit about my parents. My father wasn't educated, and did not know anything about schooling. I don't really know the exact date that I was born. But I was told by my parents that I was born at end of the World War which I think was about 1914.

I was born in Chief Nyakasaya's area, near the border of Zambia and Angola. I did my first education at Sakeji at a place called "Cottage". My first teacher was Mr. Silas Sameta. In fact I was brought up by the Fishers in the orphanage, with other boys and I was very much interested in schooling. I was very much interested in the two subjects - arithmetic and English.

During the 1920s, up to 1930, the school in Mwinilunga^{area} only came up to Standard II or III and I earned on studying up to Standard III. In the year 1930, I was asked by the missionaries to take up teaching and I started teaching my fellow boys and girls at Kalene. By that time the orphanage had been shifted from Hillwood farm, or "Cottage" to Kalene Hill and there I started teaching them Sub A and Sub two up to Standard I. In the year 1934, we were blessed with a qualified teacher from England, and that was Miss Roseanna Campbell, later Mrs. Kaye. She took up teaching. By that time I decided, as I was very much interested in education, to leave teaching and start Standard III again. By that time she was also joined by Miss Riddell, who was also a qualified teacher. In 1936 and 1937, I was studying in Standard

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In 1938 I passed my Standard IV examination. By that time I had already married and had a child.

Mr. Wilkin: Did you do all this schooling at the Hill? Was there any one else in the class with you?

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Mr. Mutembu: Yes, all at the Hill. There were several of us.

The only man I can remember now is Mr. Dryden Ikonga, who is now a retired Principal Medical Assistant, in Kabwe. We were ~~toward~~ ^{together} with several other boys. We did Standard IV with several other boys. At that time Kalene School only went up to Standard IV and other chaps decided to take up teaching. Then they left Kalene for Chitokoloki. But Dryden and myself decided to go on up to Standard VI. By that time the government had introduced that you could not get good employment with Standard IV education, unless you went up to Standard VI. Then we decided to go to Chitokoloki. I left my wife and my first born.

By that time I had no parents to assist me in my education. So this is another interesting story. When I knew that I was going out, leaving my wife and child, I decided to do something to leave my wife while she remained alone. What I did was to go and buy beeswax and then took the beeswax to the Congo and bought two pieces of material. With those pieces of material I decided to make a few dresses for my little girl, from small sizes upwards. Up to ten dresses from one piece, for the years I would be at school. Then I left my wife at her village near Chief Ntambu and walked from Kalene on our way to Chitokoloki. We took the Angolan road which we thought was nearer. We spent about three days when my friend, Ishindano, became very ill. Then I decided to go back to Kalene. We came back to Kalene. Then by that time Mrs. Kaye decided to take up a special class for we two, Dryden and myself. It was really a hard job for Mrs. Kaye to have a separate class for only two students, but

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We did most of our subjects on the verandah of Mrs. Kaye's home. By that time I was in very poor health and had disease with swelling of legs and terrible backache. I couldn't walk from my village to Kalene, and Mrs. Kaye decided to keep me nearby except on the weekends. (My family only lived about a mile from Kalene.) I carried on with my education and in 1939 I did my Standard V and did very well in these two subjects, English and arithmetic. Then we carried on with other subjects, geography, history and so on. In 1940, the two of us sat for the Standard VI examination. When we sat for our examination, fortunately enough, I did very well and passed my examination and my friend failed in one subject. He decided to go to Chitokoloki to do his Standard VI.

This was another good day since Kalene had never produced a Standard VI chap. I was the first man. And when the results were announced, I was carried on someone's shoulders, singing, dancing, and so on. Then they took me home and my uncle was there. (By that time my father had already gone.) My uncle was very happy and what he did was to load up his muzzle loading gun and shot it off to show he was the happiest man. It was a very good day.

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What I decided to take up was medical work. I applied to Lusaka and they accepted me to be a student. Late in 1940 after my examination, I was told to go to Balovale, now Zambezi, where I would take up my training. By that time I had another child. I decided to leave my wife with the missionaries, in a nearby house to Kalene. Then we were given a lift to Mwinilunga by Dr. Kaye. At that time there was no transport from Mwinilunga to Balovale. The District Commissioner who was in charge at that time gave us a carrier who took our luggage. Dryden had decided to join me and go to Chitokoloki for his Standard VI.

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We spent about a week before we got to Balovale, then Dryden went on to Chitokoloki and I remained at Balovale Hospital to take up my medical training. That training was called "feeder training". Then I did my six months and the government decided to send me to Lusaka for a fullcourse. By that time there was no transport from ~~Balovale~~ ^{Balovale} to Lusaka. The government decided to take me through ~~the~~ Zambezi transport. I took up a canoe and left Balovale. I passed through Chitokoloki and then Lukulu and then to Mongu. At Mongu I saw the Medical Officer who also arranged for my transport. There I was put into a barge which was transport from Mongu to Livingstone and I had to take a long trip from Mongu to Senanga and Sesheke and then we left the barge there and journeyed on another barge from Katambora. From Songa(?) I went on to Katongora(?), a nearby station. I spent a week at Katambora waiting for transport. There was no rest house at that time; there was an open shelter, where I was told to keep up by myself. I had a few pieces of meal, about two pounds of mealie-meal, one pot, and a plate. I remained in that shelter for a week, cooking for myself, feeding myself, until there was transport which came from Livingstone. I took up the transport and spent the night in Livingstone. The Medical Officer there supplied ^{me} with transport. I took a train from Livingstone to Lusaka, where I joined my friends in the medical school.

Mr. Wilkin: So, the journey from Bolovale to Lusaka took you about a month?

Mr. Mutembu: Yes, it took a month. I was in good health by then. People from home could not believe that I could go through to Lusaka because I was in very bad condition. But anyway God helped and I had good health by that time.

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In Lusaka, the training at that time took one and one-half years, plus six months that I did in Balovale. That made it two years. Then I was a qualified Medical Assistant.

I worked for the government for two years. At that time when you had been trained by the Government, you had to work for the Government for two years before you decide to work for other firms.

Then after working for the Government for two years, I decided to resign and join the mining Companies. I joined Rhokana Mine in 1952. 1945

Mr. Wilkin: Could you bring your family with you?

Mr. Mutembu: Yes. By that time my family had joined me. I worked for the mine companies for ten years, at Wusikili Hospital as a theatre assistant.

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As I think I mentioned, I was brought up by Fishers. They decided to take me back here and work for them as a stock-taker. I decided to leave the mine companies then, in 1950. I came back to Mwinilunga to Hillwood farm again - my old place where I was brought up. By that time I was a family man with six children. I worked with Fisher and Company for ten years, then (Ffolliot) Fisher decided to sell off his company because he wanted to concentrate on farming. So I left Fisher and Company.

While I was working for Fisher and Company, we were with Mr. Rae. We called him Chiteta. He had already left Fisher and made a store here at the boma. When he heard that I had left Fisher and Company, he decided to take me on the job here, as a stock taker and a buyer. And, of course, I accepted the offer and left my village at Ikelenge and came here.

Mr. Wilkin: So when you left the Copperbelt, you left medical work altogether.

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Mr. Mutembu: Yes, that's right. By that time Mwinilunga was growing and there was room for having a secondary school. I thought if I took up a job with Mwinilunga Trading Company, it would be easy for me to get ^{my} children's education nearby. I worked for the Company from 1965 to 1970. When, after Independence the Government introduced the economic reforms, that Zambians should take over the business, Mr. Rae decided to sell out the business. When he sold his business, I left the job and decided to start my own business. Of course, Mr. Rae did not leave me out, he wanted to help me. He asked me what I wanted to do and I told him that I now wanted to go into business. So he helped me and gave me capital to start off with. I made a very small house for my family near the road and worked there with my wife. We had only a few ngwee with us and we decided not to eat as other people, to enjoy. We just ate enough to keep us going. At that time we did not take tea with milk! We did not take our bread with butter because we had no money. We went on for two years and were doing very well and paid back what Mr. Ray had helped us with. Mr. Ray did not ~~give us a loan.~~ ^{leave me alone.} He helped us with his truck for buying goods until after two years, I bought a small Vanette. That did a very good job for collecting things. After a year we made enough money and that we decided to buy a lorry. We have had this lorry for two years and it has done a good job. We are thankful that we are slowly growing in our business.

Mr. Wilkin: Did your children get the education that you wanted them to have?

Mr. Mutembu: Yes. Our first girl did her Standard V (at that time) and is married. One of our boys did his Form V at Solwezi and decided to join the mine companies and did his training in the mine companies and is now a shift boss.

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Another girl did her Standard VI and we sent her to Chipata to do her typing. She did very well and got married to a major in the army. Then went with her husband to India where she did training in shorthand typing. She is now in Lusaka working as a personal secretary. Another boy did his Form V here and is now doing engineering in Mufulira.

I am a father of nine children and 26 grandchildren and one great-grandchild! Five of my grandchildren are with us now.

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Mr. Wilkin: Looking backward now. You mentioned that Mr. Sameta had been an early teacher and that later Mrs. Kaye helped you in Standard V and VI. Was there any other teacher that you can recall?

Burr

Mr. Mutembu: Yes. Miss, Elsie Burr, now Mrs. Mulligan. This was before Mrs. Kaye came.

Mr. Wilkin: When did many schools start expanding? Was this in your period in the 1930s?

Mr. Mutembu: Yes, at that time there were only two schools, one at Hillwood Farm and one at Kalene. After Miss. Burr came to Kalene, she started the outschools, one was at Mbuya, which is a few miles from Kalene. Another was Samakudya; another at Kakoma; another at Ntambu. All those were started by Miss. Burr. She was the one who really started things before others came in.

Mr. Wilkin: When you came back from the Copperbelt in the 1950s what changes did you see in education compared to the days when you were in school in 1940.

Mr. Mutembu: You will recall that I mentioned about the sending of teachers from Kalene to Chitokoloki. By that time the government was very much interested in African education - as it was called - and they started expanding schools.

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By the time that I arrived back from the Copperbelt, I found that most schools were built. By that time we had trained teachers who could teach both in vernacular and English. By the time I came back, Standards had gone up to VI. Many boys and girls had done their education and passed their examinations very well and many, sent out for training as teachers, some medical assistants.

Mr. Wilkin: Was there greater pressure by that time to teach more English than was taught before?

Mr. Mutembu: Yes, there was more pressure than before.

Mr. Wilkin: After being away elsewhere and coming back, did you feel that this district had been as fortunate in having as good an educational system facilities in the 1930s as elsewhere? Or did you feel that many places had had more opportunities?

Mr. Mutembu: By the 1950s when I came back, I found that education had improved over the time that I had left the district. But compared with other districts in other provinces, say Barotse and Lusaka, other places were still ^{more} up on education than Mwinilunga.

Mr. Wilkin: Do you think that this was because government was putting more money in or because of the mission or what do you think was the cause of this difference between Mwinilunga and other places in education?

Mr. Mutembu: I think that in the 1930s they did not have enough teachers, that was the disadvantage. At that time the missionaries were very interested in God's work - to go and preach. In the early 1950s the government had increased more teachers at the mission stations to give more pressure on education and help the missionaries. The government was more keen.

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Mr. Wilkin: You have mentioned Kalene, but how about education at Kamapanda or Mujimbeji? Was their education as good? Or were you just lucky to be at Kalene?

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Mr. Mutembu: No, the education was better at Kalene than at any other of the mission stations in Mwinilunga District.

Mr. Wilkin: How did the education here compare with Chavuma or Chitokoloki in the Balovale District.

Mr. Mutembu: People in Balovale were fortunate enough to have Mr. Suckling who was very much interested in educating the Africans and teachers, then in Mwinilunga. People in Balovale were lucky to have Mr. Suckling. That helped Balovale.

Mr. Wilkin: When you were doing your medical training in Balovale were you doing it under a medical officer there?

Mr. Mutembu: Yes, there was an officer there who guided me for six months. Then he sent me to Lusaka.

Mr. Wilkin: Although you left medical work after many years, do you feel that it was of any use to you? Do you regret having spent so much time in medical work?

Mr. Mutembu: I liked the job. I wished that I could have remained as a medical man, but I decided to come back home, I did not want to work for the government for a long time, that is why.

(This part of the

interview started about 17.35 and ended at 18.20 hours.)

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Mr. Wilkin: In replaying the tapes, you have mentioned several other ~~very interesting~~ interesting points.

One, how much did you earn when you started teaching?

Mr. Mutembu: For the first months, I was paid one shilling and three pence. After two months, I had an increment of one shilling and three pence, which came to two shillings and six pence a month.

You won't believe it, but I could even buy a bicycle!

ADDENDUM TO THE MUTEMBU INTERVIEW IN MWINILUNGA CN 7/12/76

When I was back in my room I added the following imp. notes about comments which were made when the tape recorder was turned off!

First, I mentioned that I had spoken with Mr. Tapa and Miss Riddell before talking to him. I mentioned that their versions of things were quite different! I asked him what had happened in the political days prior to Independence between those who said they were Christians (in fellowship) and the missionaries. He said that Mr. Tapa had been put out of fellowship as the missionaries, like the colonial govt had complete control over the churches in those days. Thus, it was only after Independence that he was re-instated into fellowship.

He indicated that the acrimony had been very great as Mr Tapa plainly, and Miss Riddell, off the tape, implied indirectly.

Second, as I was getting into the L/R, I mentioned about Mr Suckling in Zambezi and having to talk to many people due to the shortage of archival materials in Zambezi and he mentioned that Mr Suckling had been a very great man as far as education of the Africans go and he put the words that 'he was hated very much by his fellow missionaries because he had helped the Africans, they felt 'too much'.'

A third point that is now becoming clear to me is that I have not understood before, but I think I understand now. This is that, how with the F.B. there was no church separatist movement when the people were dissatisfied with what the missionaries were offering educationally and with the missionaries' very dominant role in church activities. I think

missionaries privileged position, the church does not have pastors and leaves considerable leeway for the elders to control so that in the pre and post Independence period, the Africans were able to soon gain control or retain control in the local congregation of the church, hence probably stopping any great need for, or pushing for, a ~~separatist~~ separatist church as we might have thought considering the qualities and quantities that the church lacked esp in ~~in~~ things like ed and encouraging agric and so on in most of their spheres of interest, esp in the N.W.P.

END OF ADDENDUM

Additional materials resulting from the interview

Mr. Kangasa [Spider] Mutembu

Interviewed on: 7th December 1976 in Mwinilunga

- **Five pieces of correspondence in 1977 (follow-up to the interview)**
- **Two items in 1983-84 regarding sending him a copy of the dissertation**

General note on all interviews and interviewees: These cover sheets were created from old notes 25 years ago. They contain key manuscript information in each interviewee's file. Often there is a short chronology of the interviewee's life written at the time of the interview. Most interviewees by this time (2006) are deceased; hence the huge potential value of this old interview. All interviews focused on education in the North West Province of Zambia mainly in the period from World War II until the 1970s. They often contain information on other topics that in some way related to education. All interviewees were in some way leaders of their own community or missionaries who had spent much of their life in the N.W.P. Most interview transcripts contain rectangular boxes for, or with, 5 numbers. These were used to code key data for research and writing in this pre-computer era. These codes are now meaningless for me and for any one else. Unless noted otherwise, these interviewees can be used by scholars without restrictions.

7/15/2006

61-15 98th St., #4E
Rego Park, New York 11374
9 January 1984

Mr. S. K. Mutembu,
Zabukenu Stores,
P.O. Box 111,
Mwinilunga, N. W. Province,
ZAMBIA

Dear Mr. Mutembu,

Herewith the copy of my dissertation that I promised you. I hope that you received my airmail letter, also written on 9 January 1984, informing you that it was coming. As very few studies cover the present-day entity called the NWP, the dissertation may have some future significance.

Please start by reading the Preface very carefully.

Note my general acknowledgement to all interviewees in the Preface and my specific acknowledgements in the bibliography. Note also that I make at least one -- and generally many more -- references to each interview. As there is no index, you must carefully read or survey the whole dissertation, including the footnotes, to find specific references to our interview.

As with all other readers, I invite you to write me with your comments. For at least the remainder of this year, use the address given at the top of this page. Thereafter, as indicated in the Preface, write to me in care of my brother.

If you do write to me with your comments, both positive and negative, I will certainly reply. If you also desire, I will give you a summary of American scholars remarks about this work. I suspect that those remarks will be different from, and often less astute than, those from you interviewees for whom this topic has a personal meaning.

I hope you are well and having a good year. As of the date of this letter, I am well and moving into a new business career. For the time being, I have placed both life in Africa and in the university world behind me. Nonetheless, I still hope to do some writing in the next year or so. Thus after you read the work, I will indeed value your comments very much.

Very sincerely,

P. David Wilkin

S.K. Mutemba
Zabwani Stone
P.O. Box 111,
Mwinilunga
30th July 1983

Mr P.D. Wilkin
P.O. Box 175
New York

Dear Mr Wilkin

Thank you
Very much for your letter of
the 6th July 1983.

I did not know that you had
left Zambia for America.
I am glad to learn that your
writing project while in N.W.P
has resulted in a historical
study.

① Please send me a copy,
also a few copies for others
I am sure it will be interest-
ing to them

② Your current address for
me is correct.

I suggest that scholars
wishing to read ~~the~~ transcript
of my interview need our
permission.

My growing family is well
Very sincerely,
S.K. Mutemba

Zabukem Stone

Box 25

Mi Janga

13/11/77

Dear Mr. Watkins

Thank you very
much for the two copies.

I went through them
& made a few corrections
otherwise it is ok

Sorry for the delay
hope to see you again

Best wishes

yo sincerely
Zabukem

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CENTRE FOR CONTINUING EDUCATION,
P.O. BOX 43,
SOLWEZI.

XXXXX

298/PDW/PROF

9th November 1977

Mr S. Mutembu,
Zabukenu Stores,
Mwinilunga

Dear Mr Mutembu,

Since sending you in June two copies of the transcription of our interview last November, I have not received your comments. I hope the transcription was all right. Also, I hope you and your family are well.

I had planned to visit Mwinilunga last August but was unable to do so. I am now planning to be in Mwinilunga from the 24th-30th of this month. If at all possible, I look forward to meeting you again.

All the best.

Very sincerely,

P. David Wilkin

PDW/fm

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CENTRE FOR CONTINUING EDUCATION,
P.O. BOX 43,
SOLWEZI.

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144/PDW/PROF

7th June, 1977

Mr. K. Mutembu,
Zabukenu Stores,
MWINILUNGA.

Dear Mr Mutembu,

Herewith the transcripts of our interview on 7th December, 1976. I deeply regret the delay in getting it to you. Unfortunately, several unforeseen delays kept me from finishing earlier.

I fear that I may have misspelled some words and may have misquoted some phrases in the transcription. Hence I am sending you two copies. I should be grateful if you would mark corrections boldly on the original copy and return it to me in the addressed, stamped envelope. The second copy is for your reference and files. If you would like to make any longer additions, as well as corrections, please feel free to do so.

I am hoping to visit Mwinilunga again in September and will look forward to meet you once again if possible.

Very sincerely,

P. David Wilkin,

Encl.

-PDW/FM.

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22 December 1976

Mr. S. Mutembu,
Zabukenu Stores,
MWINILUNGA

Dear Mr. Mutembu,

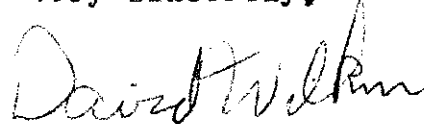
Many thanks for agreeing to chat with me about your early education, etc. It was a real pleasure.

I have not started transcribing the tape yet, but hope to do so before the end of February. As soon as I do, I shall send you a copy to correct, make additions to., etc. If you recall more details that are important in understanding the history of education in your area, I will look forward to adding them on to the tape. Certainly you have played an important part in the history of education in our province and I am delighted to have had a chance to discuss education with you. When I come to Mwinilunga again next year I shall indeed look forward to meeting you again.

Hoping that your lorry got to the Copperbelt safely and that you received the goods you wanted for your business.

A very Happy Christmas and good New Year in 1977 to you and your family.

Very sincerely,



P. David Wilkin

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

CENTRE FOR CONTINUING EDUCATION
P.O. BOX 43, SOLWEZI

PDW/RES

2nd November 1976

Mr. S. Mutembu,
Zabukeñu Stores,
MWINILUNGA

Dear Mr. Mutembu,


When Mr. Sameta introduced me to you in August when I visited Mwinilunga, I knew that I recognized you. Later I realized that I had met you in 1968 when I taught briefly at Mwinilunga Secondary School before going overseas and later joining the University. Anyway it was good to formally meet you.

I understand that you were one of the first men from Mwinilunga to be educated up to Standard VI. And as we briefly discussed, I am presently writing a history of education of our province. Hence I should very much like to interview you, if possible. Mainly, I would like to hear your reminiscences about how you received your education, how you happened to be among the first to go on to Standard VI, who your teachers were, what subjects you studied, etc. ~~Nothing~~ formal, but what you consider to be important.

The University is sponsoring their first seminars in Mwinilunga this next month on the 4th or 5th December. The subject is appropriately on Rural Development. (Just in case you have not received a copy of the publicity release, I am enclosing several.) If you are not too busy and in Mwinilunga at that time, it would be a good opportunity to interview you. I shall arrive on approximately December 3rd and leave about the 9th.

Hoping to see you soon after my arrival.

Very sincerely,



P. David Wilkin