kedda: kedda (kädda) (A,T) betray, desert, abandon; (qädda) (A) fill one vessel by pouring from another

?? Keda (Qeda) (area known from the 1500s) ../.. [+ Pa]

HEE68 Keda (K'eda, Qeda) 11°29'/39°11' 1801 m west of Mekdela

?? Keda Geffo (visiting postman under Jimma) ../.. [Po]

kedada (qädada) (A) hole, rent, loophole;
kedede (qädädä) (T) tear to pieces

HCB02 Kedada (Chedada) 05°26'/35°57' 515 m
kedamawi (qädamawi) (A) first /in the title of a king/

HEB26 Kedamawi Haile Selassie Ber (H.S. I Ber) (Kedamawi Hayle Silase Ber), see Chagne
kedany: kedagn (kädanj) (A) covering;
keddane (kädänä) (A) covered with a lid; thatched with grass;
keddene (T) cover

HDL61 Kedany Amba 09°35'/38°34' 2447 m south-west of Fiche

JEA13 Kedar Amba (Chedar A.) 11°01'/40°03' 1501 m south of Bati

HES69 Keddiss Arit (mountain) 13°18'/38°21' 13/38 [x]

JDG93 Kedebura (mission school) 09°54'/40°03' 09/40 [Gz]

HBF82 Kededuma (Kedaduma, Gaddaduma) (place) 03°27'/39°33', (wells) /39°34' 964 m
kedida (O) kind of tree, Olinia rochetiana

HDK75 Kedida (K'edida, Qedida) (with church Silase) 09°41'/38°00' 2508 m

HDS09 Kedida (K'edida, Qedida) 10°02'/38°20' 2456 m 10/38 [Gz q]

HCK95 Kedida Gamela sub-district? (-1997-) 07/38 [n]

HCK95 Kedida Gamela wereda 07/38 [n Ad]

(Qedida Gamiel Gamiela wereda, centre in 1964 = Durame)
This was one of the most severely affected areas in the Kembata/Hadiya region during the drought of 1973-1974.

HDJ35 Kedida Maryam (K'edida M.) (church) 09°22'/37°07' near Haretu

HDS04 Kedie (centre in 1964 of Liben sub-district) 09/37 [Ad]

HEF32 Kedio (Chedigio) 11°10'/39°31' 2643 m 11/39 [Gz Gu]
see under Dessie

HEF33 Kedio sub-district (centre in 1964 = Beret) 11/39 [Ad]

HDJ11 Kedo (Jachis, Gialcis) (peak) 09°12'/36°42' 2257 m 09/36 [Gz]

?? Kedse (Qädsé) (unidentified, recorded c1330) ../.. [+ Pa]
Emperor 'Amdä Seyon (1312-1342) advanced to "all the land" of Shäwa and also to an unidentified locality Qädsé.
[Pankhurst 1997]

HED17 Kef (Chef) (mountain) 11°02'/38°14' 2128 m 11/38 [n Gz WO]

Kefa, Keffa, Kafa, ethnic group numbering about 599,188 according to the 1994 census

text A. Orent, The Kafa of Southwest Ethiopia

Kefa (Kafa, Kaffa, Käfa), old kingdom

medvl Beyond the confines of the Christian empire lay the medieval kingdom of Käfa. It is thought to have been founded by a people called the Minjo, who established a dynasty toward the end of the fourteenth century. No contemporary information is available, but oral traditions collected by the Italian Geographical Mission and by Friedrich Bieber refer to the first Käfa ruler as the Minjo Tato, or King. He reportedly came to the throne around 

Published online by the Nordic Africa Institute library | nai.uu.se/library | 1 of 10
1390, and was succeeded by Tato Girra, who was succeeded in turn by the "Addio king", who reigned until about 1495.

Though by this time largely independent there are indications that Käfa, or its immediate environs to the west, had once been under at least partial imperial control. The seventeenth century Jesuit traveller Manoel de Almeida likewise states that the Emperor's rule had formerly extended to Gamaro, the name by which the people of Käfa were generally known by their Gimira neighbours.

[Pankhurst 1997 p 90]

1500s By the early sixteenth century, Käfa was still under the rule of an independent local dynasty. The most important Käfa monarch at this time, according to oral tradition, was the “Shadda king”, who ruled between around 1495 and 1530. Käfa was apparently too far away to be invaded by Imam Ahmäd's forces. The local tato, or king, at the time was Madi Gafo, who reigned between about 1530 and 1565.

1600s Käfa remained an independent state, but was not entirely isolated from outside contacts. Oral traditions suggest that Särssä Dengel's expedition to nearby Bosha led to the limited penetration of Christianity into the province. Local rulers of this time included the "Bonga king", presumably a monarch at Bonga, who reigned between about 1565 and 1605. He was in turn succeeded by Tato Giba Nechocho, who was succeeded around 1640 by Tato Gali Gafocho. Bonga is said to have been the capital for many years, and maintained its importance even after the later establishment of a new capital at nearby Andaracha. [Pankhurst 1997 p 154, 216, 267]

1610s Because of the Sadacha invasion in the 1610s, it seems that some members of the ruling families of Bosha fled across the Gojeb river to Kaffa. Unable to stop the advancing Sadacha, the rival rulers of Ennarya fled one after the other to take refuge across the Gojeb river in Kaffa, in the late 1600s or early 1700s. The hot valley of the Gojeb was a formidable natural barrier that opposed the Sadacha advance towards Kaffa. It was infested with mosquitoes and tsetse flies, covered with tall grass and dense forest, and this made rapid cavalry attack and retreat virtually impossible. This natural protection was further strengthened by highly complex man-made fortifications which protected all the entrances to Kaffa.

[Mohammed 1994 p 56, 79-81]

1700s Käfa was visited by no foreign travellers in this period. Oral traditions collected much later indicate that the territory, which was guarded by deep trenches, successfully withstood a number of Oromo onslaughts.

One of the most important Käfa monarchs of this time, Tato Gali Ginocho, who reigned between about 1675 and 1710, is believed to have incorporated, or re-incorporated, the nearby small Gimira states of Shé, Benesho, and Masogo or Mashengo. Käfa expansion was reportedly continued by Tato Shagi Sherocho, who ruled between about 1775 and 1795. He is said to have extended his kingdom as far as the Omo River in the south-east and nearly to the confluence of the Omo and Dinchá Rivers in the south.

[Pankhurst 1997 p 351]

One of the refugee groups from Ennarya, the Minjo, succeeded in usurping power in Kaffa, where they established the celebrated Minjo dynasty, which dominated that country from the first half of the seventeenth century to 1897 when the Minjo dynasty itself was abolished by the victorious imperial Shewan soldiers.

The power of a king of Kaffa was limited by the power of the councillors of state. The seven councillors, mikrecho, made and unmade kings. The political structure of Kaffa was composed of a series of hierarchically organized clans, at the apex of which stood the royal clan, the Minjo, and under it were the seven most important clans in the kingdom, and the seven councillors of the state were the representatives of the seven clans.

A king of Kaffa was subjected to all sorts of restrictions. No one was allowed to see him. He wore a veil and he sat behind a curtain. He could not put his feet on the ground, and cotton cloth was always placed where he desired to walk. [Mohammed 1994 p 91-92]

1800s The state of Kaffa was a reservoir of slaves for the Gibe region. According to the reports
of Catholic missionaries who lived in Kaffa between 1859 and 1861, it was in that country more than anywhere else that the poor volunteered to be slaves. Taxation was heavy in Kaffa. The king of Kaffa received tribute in slaves from his subjects.

It was from Kaffa that the largest number of slaves, sometimes as many as 8,000 in a year, were exported. From Kaffa also came the best ivory, musk, and spices as well as a large quantity of coffee.

Abba Bagibo of Limmu-Ennarya (1825-1861) was married to a daughter of the king of Kaffa. Limmu-Ennarya depended on Kaffa, which was the source of many of the luxury goods which Limmu-Ennarya exported through Gojjam.

In 1843, Abba Bagibo decided to marry a sister of the reigning king of Kaffa as his twelfth wife. Among the distinguished men who were sent to Kaffa as elders to negotiate that marriage was the French traveller Antoine d'Abbadie.

"General security in the zone is described as being very reliable."

[UNDP/EUE January 1997]

Two zones were combined into one in 1996, with Bonga as its capital. Estimated population one million.

He... Keficho-Shekicha zone

Two zones were combined into one in 1996, with Bonga as its capital. Estimated population one million.

Abba Bagibo of Limmu-Ennarya (1825-1861) was married to a daughter of the king of Kaffa. Limmu-Ennarya depended on Kaffa, which was the source of many of the luxury goods which Limmu-Ennarya exported through Gojjam.

In 1843, Abba Bagibo decided to marry a sister of the reigning king of Kaffa as his twelfth wife. Among the distinguished men who were sent to Kaffa as elders to negotiate that marriage was the French traveller Antoine d'Abbadie.

[UNDP/EUE January 1997]

Two zones were combined into one in 1996, with Bonga as its capital. Estimated population one million.

"General security in the zone is described as being very reliable."

[UNDP/EUE January 1997]
13°09'/39°35' 2442 m (with church K'irk'os)

HDE50 Kekew Tadde (Checheu Tadde) (area) 08/38 [+ WO]

HDH01 Keki (K'eki, Qeki) 09°04'/35°49' 1830 m 09/35 [Gz q]
south of Gimbi

HDJ06 Keku 09°08'/37°10' 1824 m, north-west of Gedo 09/37 [Gz]

HDJ17 Keku 09°09'/37°16' 2764 m (with church Giyorgis), north-west of Gedo

(kela) gate in a thorn fence; the concept of kela as a customs house on the border of a closed province was taken over by the Oromo conquerors from the Sidama tribes who previously dominated southern Ethiopia

Kela, cf Kella

HBR67 Kela 05°05'/37°19' 1462 m 05/37 [Gz]

HCC74 Kela 06°05'/37°02' 1324 m 06/37 [Gz]

HCU52 Kela 07°44'/39°34' 2015 m, south-east of Ticho 07/39 [Gz]

HDD98 Kela (K'ela, Qela) 09°00'/38°17' 2129 m 09/38 [AA Gz q]

Kela, west of Addis Alem, see under Welenkom

HDE10 Kela (Scerscera) 08°16'/38°30' 2054 m 08/38 [Gz]
north-east of Butajira

?? Kela (in the Adigrat region) ..../..

(sub-distric & its centre in 1964)

Kela Genda (Qäla Gända), name of an Orom group who around 1690 gave support to the Amhara king as protection against other Oromo groups

HEF90 Kela Iyesus (church) 11°42'/39°23' 11/39 [Gz]
south-west of Weldiya

JDA59 Kelada (K'elada, Qelada) 08°37'/40°41' 1726 m 08/40 [Gz q]

HDD37 Keladi (K'eladi, Qeladi, Toli) 08°29'/38°11' 2366 m 08/38 [Gz q]

JCE18 Kelafo (K'elafo, Qelafo, K'ellafo, Qellaffo, Kalafo) 05°44/ [Gz Po x WO]

(Kallafo, Gallafo, Callafo, Qalafu, Qalafo, Au Calif)

(Qellafo, Kollaffo)

MS: 05°30'/44°15' = JCE09, 230 m; Gz: 05°37'/44°08' = JCE27, 233 m

Centre of awraja and wereda, with sub-post office.

Within a radius of 10 km there are at km

5E Danyerrey (Dagnerrei) 233 m

10SE Gumer (Gumerhe) 229 m

10S Galwen (Galuen) (area) 592 m

7NE Morodiley (Morodilei) (area)

9NE Bararato (area, with pass)

1933 Dr Agge arrived at Kelafo in September 1933 and found it to be the hottest place he had experienced in Ogaden. There was a newly built motorable road and a small ferry at the river. He found the town to be on a little hill on the southern side of the Webi Shebele river. The white cliffs of the hill could be seen from far away. Around the foot of the hill there was a settlement with Adoni population, with palisade and moat and two gates towards the river. Trees at the river were mostly tamarisks.

Some ten years earlier, with Fitawrari Semmo in command, the town had been downright beleaguered by rebellious Somali supported by Italian border soldiers. Sultan Orfa of Kelafo arranged the supplies so that the inhabitants did not die from hunger. In memory of this the Amhara tried to give Kelafo the new name Wechefo Ketema.

[G Agge, I svart tjänst ... Sthlm 1935 p 138-139]

In late 1933 government soldiers fled from the areas lower down at Webi river and about 200 of them gathered in Kelafo. A couple of trucks led by Ato Umar and intended as
reinforcement with some fifty soldiers also fled to there. Balambaras Afewerq was sent from Jijiga with eight trucks full of soldiers to make a considerable force. The Balambaras collected all men in Kelafo able to carry arms, including some of the Addoni inhabitants, and they departed to try to recapture "Easter town". Sultan Ollel (Olol) arranged for that town to be burnt.

1935 Sultan Olol Dinle of the Shebeli was the most prominent collaborator of the Italians in 1935-36. He carried out raids into the Kelafo area even prior to the Italian invasion.

1940s District governors were despatched to Kelafo and other centres in Ogaden in 1948, to replace the British administration after the agreement of 24 July.

1950s The clinic/hospital was operated by the Sudan Interior Mission (1953-1958-).

Emperor Haile Selassie in 1951 personally granted the S.I.M. permission to work at Kelafo. The centres Kelafo and Degeh Bur were chosen because they at least offered a degree of permanence in the midst of a moving population.

Dr. Dick Scheel and Mrs. Margery Scheel arrived from Illinois, U.S.A., to Kelafo in 1953, and their baby Becky was born there. The dwellings and the hospital were at that time being given the finishing touches by one of the Mission builders, on an eight-acre compound by the river.

"Within a few weeks Dr. Scheel became desperately ill with malaria, followed by blackwater fever. An urgent S.O.S. was sent through the Desert Locust Control radio in Kallafo, and the message was picked up in Hargeisa, capital of the then British Somaliland. From there a Government doctor flew down in one of the Locust Control planes, landing at Kallafo with the aid of smoke signals and white sheets outlining the makeshift airstrip. -- when Dr. Scheel began to improve he was advised to leave the tropics as soon as possible -- the Mission arranged for a plane to fly the doctor and his family to Hargeisa, where they connected with a commercial flight to the U.S.A."

With a measure of renewed health, the Scheels returned to Kelafo.

"In their absence, the work had progressed through the labours of Mr. and Mrs. Ed. Iwan, and both day and night schools had been commenced. /Various categories/ enrolled in the night school, until the number reached about fifty. The day school, however, came along more slowly, for the Muslim priests had forbidden the parents to send their children."

"The twenty-five-bed hospital was the wonder of the district, and the special clinic for mothers and babies, which Margery Scheel began, was gaining the confidence of the women."

"On a November morning, Arte Mohammed brought to the clinic his three-year-old son, who was suffering with acute malaria. Owing to a rare sensitivity to medicine, the child went into shock and died. This, of course, was difficult to explain to Arte, who insisted that Dr. Scheel had murdered his boy. All efforts to console him were in vain. By Somali custom -- Arte brought charges against the doctor for 'blood money' amounting to one hundred camels,"

"The Government Medical Board in Addis Ababa dismissed the case that Arte Mohammed brought against Dr. Scheel, but Arte demanded satisfaction, and even threatened revenge on the children of the missionaries." The case was even brought to the Supreme Court, and once more Dr. Scheel was freed from all responsibility.

Arte came to talk at S.I.M. Headquarters in Addis Ababa with the Field Secretary, Mr. Borlase. Little by little he got insight into Christian thoughts.

"Kindness and coffee, with much prayer, completely changed Arte's hard and bitter heart. The day came when he shook hands with Dr. Scheel in a pact of friendship, and even offered Mr. Borlase, the mediator, the gift of a camel! The S.I.M. today has no truer friend in Kallafo than Arte Mohammed, especially now that he has joined the little group of believers and is openly confessing Christ."

The Emperor, during a tour of Ogaden, together with Somali chiefs, toured the hospital, the clinic and school.
The Ogaden Company had its origin in four trading concerns founded separately in the four district capitals of the region in the mid-1950s. These soon became vehicles of clandestine nationalist activity. The four companies merged in 1958 to form the Ogaden Company for Trade and Industry, with headquarters in Kelafo.

Sheikh Ahmed Mahmud became its first president, to be succeeded after one year by Yusuf Ahmed Gas. Abdi Nassir Sheikh Aden was the company's vice-president throughout its existence. Company meetings provided a venue for gatherings that would have aroused suspicion otherwise.

1960s Around 1960 the Ethiopian government appointed some local pastoral chiefs as governors in Ogaden. Bashir Sheikh Abdi was appointed for Kelafo.

Postal cancellation stamp used spelling QELLAFO around 1963.

In 1963, after an arrest of Nassir Allah members, a few avoided capture and made their way to Kelafo determined to find arms. "Two of them, armed with hand guns, attacked the policemen guarding the bridge on the Shebeli river, killing three and taking two rifles. This was the first blood drawn in yet another round of the perennial conflict between Ethiopians and Somali. It precipitated a flight of activists and chiefs before the expected reprisals."

The two attackers mentioned above were young traders Mohammed Aden Mayle and Abdi Nassir Hashi.

The primary school in 1968 had 219 boys and 11 girls in grades 1-5, with 5 teachers.

When a dam in the Webi Shebele river collapsed on 7 May 1968 the town of Kelafo was seriously flooded and covered by about 1.5 metres of water, so the 3,700 residents had to evacuate. It was the second such disaster in seven years.

1970s The aged Emperor visited Kelafo on 23 August 1973, in a time of tension between Ethiopia and Somalia.

1990s According to Amnesty International in February 1994 two men Goyare Aden Olhaye and Dulane Hassan Gabane, being regional police commander and member of the regional assembly respectively, were detained and also ill-treated in detention. Goyare was shot and wounded in custody. They seem to have been members or supporters of the Ogaden National Liberation Front (ONLF).

The civil airport is named Kalafo East and has no scheduled regular flights in 1998? Unpaved runway, length about 1200 m.

2003 Some 96,000 people were forced to flee their homes after the Shebele river burst its banks in early 2003, flooding lowland areas.

The towns of Kelafo and Mustahil were reportedly hardest hit by the flooding.
Mines Minister Mohamoud Dirir Gheddi told the BBC that the government was unable to cope with the problem. A senior representative of the Unicef said the situation was "very serious and worse than any year before".

At least five health centres and two schools were destroyed, and dozens of villages were cut off. The UN World Food Programme, present in Kelafo, warned that food needs would have to be reassessed.

[Addis Tribune 2003/05/09]

In April-May 2003 the ICRC (International Committee of the Red Cross) used boats to reach victims of floods down Webi Shebele in Kelafo and Mustahil. 3,000 families each received a kit of non-food items composed of tarpaulins, blankets, cooling sets and kerry cans. With the opening of roads, food and maize were distributed by the ICRC in June.

[Addis Tribune 2003/06/13]

The primary school in 1968 had 147 boys and 29 girls, with 4 teachers. Enrolment in the Environmental Education Project at Kelala Community Skill Training Centre (built with Swedish assistance) was 80 participants in 1986/87.
kelem (qäläm) (A,T) 1. colour, ink, paint, pen; 2. (A) learning, education; 3. letter of script; 4. large reed from which pens are cut

HD... Kelela (sub P.O. under Dessie) ../..
HDT54 Kelela (Calala, Kalala) 10°28'/38°48' 1655 m
(WO has Kalata at HDT42)
HDT76 Kelela 10°35'/39°00' 2556 m
?? Kelela sub-district (-1997-)

HER99 Kelelo (K'elelo, Qelelo) 13°32'/37°27' 1967 m

1930s Italian Residenza del Mumè e Galèb.
[Guida 1938]

1940s The British-led forces to invade southwest Ethiopia in early 1941 had a strength of near 3,000 men.
"Across the frontier lay a few banda of the Maji group but above all the ferocious Merille tribesmen, who with their allies the Donjiro were blood enemies of the equally ferocious Turkana. Between them the Merille and the Donjiro were 4,000 rifles strong; and they were on the best of terms with the Italians whose residente at Kalam, Lieutenant Modesto Furesi, had been arming and supplying them. 'Any Merille seen are to be attacked,' said the operation order. When captured, Merille tribesmen were to be segregated, six to be selected, given two white arm-bands and a white flag and split sticks with messages for the three great Merille chiefs; the very old half-paralysed Lokweria, the powerful Tappo, and Lomoromoi, leader of the Moran. All were to be invited to come to Kalam for a Baraka to discuss stolen cattle, blood payments for past killings, and the question of hostages."
"This was tribal warfare in all its traditional glory. Todenyang was occupied, Namuruputh was taken after a skirmish, but the Merille gathered to defend a ford on the road approaching Kalam, and the 2/4th KAR /King's African Rifles/ was driven back, though bombing shook the tribesmen. By 12 February /1941/ 'peace talks' had been opened with the Merille."
[Mockler 1984 p 319]

1950s Chief of police in Kolem of Galeb/Geleb wereda in 1959 was Major Abebe Belachew and deputy chief was Major Miteke Wolde Ammanuel.

1970s By 1970 Kelem was one of the few scattered police stations in the Lower Omo area.

1980s The EPLF in Eritrea offered to train members of OLF, the Oromo Liberation Front. When the second group of about twenty of these trainees returned in 1980, some of them were sent to set up a base in Kelem district. The OLF hoped to expand its operations from this remote border region into more solidly Oromo areas.
[Markakis 1987 p 264]

text Negaso Gidada et al, The introduction and expansion of Orthodox Christianity in Qëlém Awraja, Western Wallâga; from about 1886 to 1941, in Journal of Ethiopian Studies X:1(1972) p 103-112
An elementary school building constructed of concrete elements and with Swedish assistance through ESBU was completed around 1970.

[SIDA 1971]

kelkel (qäļqäł) (A) edge of cliff

On 2 August 1988 Derg Government troops killed 13 people, wounded two, burnt three houses, and destroyed 7 tonnes of grain. [Africa Watch 1991]
HDA05 Kella (Chella) 08°09'/35°16' 1541 m, west of Gore 08/35 [Gz WO]
HDA39 Kella (Chella) 08°28'/35°39' 1205 m 08/35 [+ Gz]
HDB81 Kella (Chella) 08°56'/35°49' 1834 m 08/35 [+ Gz]
HDE62 Kella (archaeol. site) see under Melka Kunture 08/32 [x]
HDA96 Kella Dafino (Chella D.), see Amara Gudo
HDC32 Kella Gibe (Chella del Ghibie) 08°30'/36°52' 1864 m 08/36 [+ Gz]
HDB57c Kella Hippa (Chella Hippa) (village) 08/36 [+ Gu]
Gella soyama: soyyama (O) rush, plant used for roofing
GDF56 Kella Soiama (Coie Soiama, Fait Buraio) 08°37'/34°55' 1585 m
JCE18 Kellafo, see Kelafo
JDR71 Kellali, see Killelu
  kellau (T) kind of shrub or small tree, Euclea schimperi;
  kelle (qellee) (O) kind of field hockey
HF... Kelleaf (in Agame awraja) 14/39? [Ad]
  The primary school in 1968 had 81 boys and 4 girls in grades 1-5,
  with 3 teachers.
  kellele (källälä) (A,T) stake out /a plot of land/, fence,
  delimit, demarcate; (qällälä) (A) be light of weight
HFF41 Kellele (Qellele, Qilälä) 14/39 [+ x]
  (with rock-hewn church), see under Hawzen
JDG22 Kelles (small lake?) 09/40 [Ne]

rello (western O) 1. yellow flower, meskel daisy,
  Bidens sp.; 2. yearly kellu feast
?? Kello (area) ... [x]
  During the resettlement programme until 1985 villages of approximately
  500 families were erected in clusters in the Kello /Ketto?/ area.
  [Jansson, Harris & Penrose 1987 p 175]
HDK17 Kelo Jebi 09°13'/38°13' 2849 m 09/38 [AA Gz]
  north-west of Addis Alem
HDK73 Keloba Dasa 09°45'/37°50' 1559 m 09/37 [AA Gz]
JDA56 Keltu Mesha (K. Mescia) 08°39'/40°22' 1611 m 08/40 [+ Gz]
  near Mechara