

Photographs taken by Baron von Eickstedt in 1927 in and around Bibile including Bibile Walauwa and the Maha Wedirata in the Nilgala area



The Eickstedts (Egon & Enjo) with Veddahs





Eickstedt receiving his mail packet in Bibile from the Tappal Runner



Bibile Resthouse



Car used by Eickstedt, near Bibile



Eickstedt's car at the Cenotaph for Sylvester Douglas Wilson, Assistant Resident and British Agent who was killed at this spot on the Passara-Lunugala-Bibile road at the beginning of the Uva Rebellion in 1817

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-9uyCwUq_4

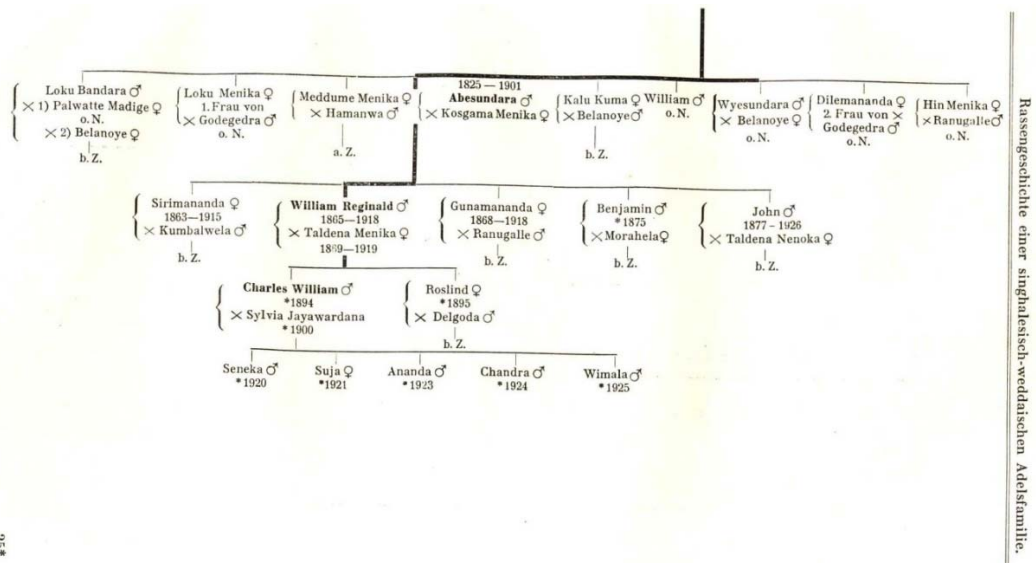
Extract from Eickstedt's narrative:

“In this connection I might also touch upon an important and for the Bibile family fatal event because it is related to the problem of the cultural-biological position of the Wedda – the Kandyan Rebellion on which unfortunately an in depth historical study is lacking up till now. It started in 1817 in the Uva province which until the beginning of British rule of 1815 had not yet experienced any domination by foreigners, and was organized by the Dissáwa of Badúlla. The execution of the British resident by arrows of Wedda troupes at the road from Badúlla to Bibile – nowadays there is a memorial on the spot – was the signal for a general uprising. At this occasion the Wedda had been – and for the last time at that! – auxiliary troops of the Kandyans. According to a popular tradition, about which for understandable reasons the world will never get correct details any more, the young Rátamahátmaya Hinbanda of Bibile with his Weddas is said to have played a leading role at the execution..... The Bibile family finally fled to the wild mountaineous region of the Eastern inner jungles where the Weddas of the old Moráne clan – relatives of them, as tradition has it -dwelled on the Danigála rock. The family was forced to purchase its return at the price of about 4/5th of its extensive landed property.”

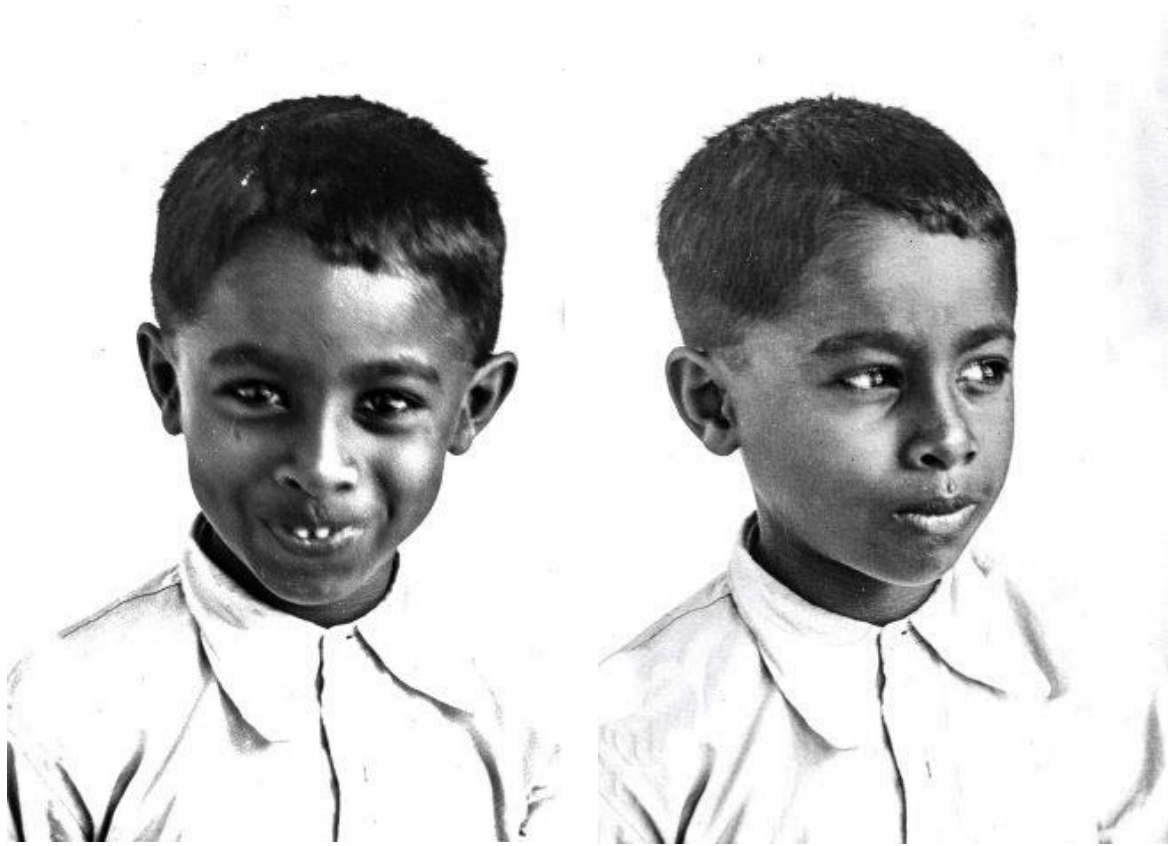
Photographs of the Bibile Walauwa and the Bibile Family taken by von Eickstedt in 1927



C.W. Bibile RM, Mrs Sylvia Bibile and children: Suja and Seneka front row, seated (on elephant-leg stools), Ananda 2nd row seated on table, Chandra and Wimala carried by the parents. Cuda had not yet been born



Senaka at age 7



After leaving Ceylon and before returning to Germany, the Eickstedts moved to India to research tribes there. From India Enjo (Mrs Eickstedt) wrote to Mrs Sylvia Bibile asking after the family and 'little clever Senaka' as follows:

*"What are you doing? I hope you are all going well. I think **little clever Senaka** will have leave now and stay at home. And Anand and Chandra and Wimela and Sudja? Give all my love to the children"*

Baron von Eickstedt requested C.W.Bibile and wife Sylvia to dress up in their Kandyan Chieftain regalia, which they had used for their wedding, so that he, Eickstedt could photograph them. Those photographs are shown below.



Ratemahattaya Charles William Bibile and Sylvia Bibile photographed at the Walauwa in 1927





The Bibile Walauwa and garden:



**C.W. Bibile and Mrs Bibile with children Senaka, Ananda, and Suja, and the elephant 'Mudiyanse' and mahout in the Walauwa gaden. Note the fountain in the pond which worked on header pressure from an overhead tank to which water was pumped by a hydraulic Ram Pump from a spring (*Bubula*) at the bottom of the garden.
(There was no electricity in Bibile till the ~1970s)**



The Bibiles and Eickstedts in the Walauwa Garden

Note the canon to the left of the pond - a trophy captured from the British during the Uva Rebellion



C.W.Bibile, Senaka and Ananda, "Mudiyanse" and mahout



The Bibiles and the Eickstedts at the spring (bubula) before the big 'pihilla' tank was built



Minor Chieftains pose with the Ratemahattaya C.W.Bibile (seated centre) in the Walauwa garden



C.W.Bibile and Mrs Bibile at the tomb of three of the ancestors. The names 'Abesundara' and 'Willam Reginald' (WR Bibile) are faintly legible. The third name is not very clear but should be Hinbanda as all the names have the letters R.M. (for Ratemahattaya) after their names. We have no other information on this tomb, and its location is not known as at the time of writing in 2024



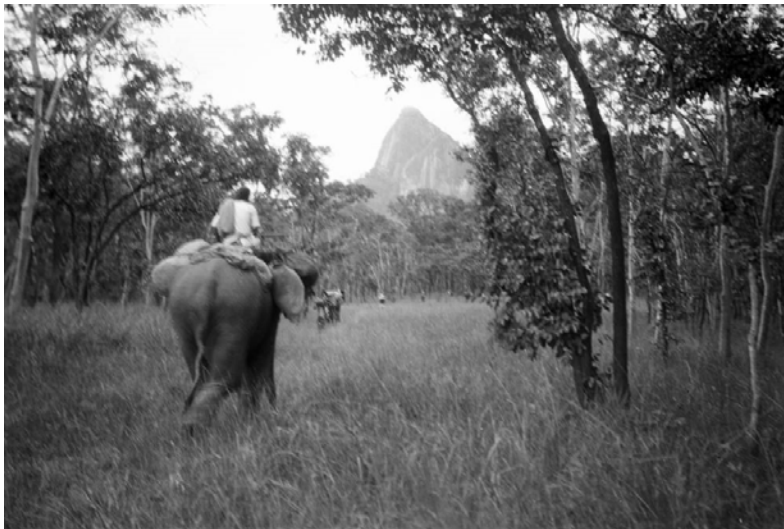
The Nilgala Expedition into the Maha Wedirata

Extracts from the diary of von Eickstedt:

January 12th, 1927, 6 a.m.:

*“We sit and wait for our friend Bibile to come and bring the porters for our Wedda expedition, as well as his **horse** and his **elephant**”* (whose name was Mudiyanse).

“Of course, whoever was sitting on the elephant was best off, the more so as the horse had the embarrassing habit of shying away in the middle of the river and wishing to roll around. Well, the brave roundbellied animal carried our beds, the bag with the coconuts etc., and, by the way, was quite lively and friendly.”



The dramatic peak of Uihela in the Maha Wedirata is seen in the background



A few of the porters headed for Nilgala



The typical Nilgala Talawa



There were many streams to be forded between Bibile and Nilgala

*“After a 3-hour march through park jungle, the ford of the Gal Oya was reached. Underneath the deeply down-hanging trees the murky gurgling waters flowed hurriedly and soaked the trunks, from the small islands, only bushes stuck out. Therefore, the horse had to be sent back to Nilgala, and the elephant under the Kovala was the first to steadily cross the stream. Then he had to cross the river six more times, under the heavy burden of our luggage – while the Haute Volée of the exped. (incl. servants) **swang itself on his back and the porters, paddling at his side, clinched to the ropes as well as to his ears and tail.**”*



END