P18

1879 United Africa Company formed under Mr Goldie Taubman (later Sir George Taubman Goldie)– linking existing firms established on the Niger River

1882 UAC became National African Company

1884 Two French established firms accepted shares in NAC and withdrew from competing

1884 Germany decalerd Protectorate over Cameroons and Togo

p21

1885 agreement to British management of “Oil Rivers Protectorate” with navigation of the Niger free to all nations

1885 Company gained agreement of Sultan of Sokoto to some jurisdiction on banks of Benue and middle Niger and some other rights within the Sultanate

1886 Charter bestowed on NAC→Royal Niger Company to give it power to govern as well as to trade – and able to levy customs duties on imports and exports; Agent-General appointed with executive staff

By 1888 – treaties made with 235 riverside states and tribes (up to 1000 miles from the sea)

? Treaty with state of Borgu on west bank of Niger to limit French influence via Dahomey

P32

1890 Line drawn to demark French sphere of influence Niger to Lake Chad

1893 English and german governments agree boundary between Cameroons hinterland and Niger territories

1893 French attempt to extend from Dahomey via Borgu, claiming the latter to be subordinate to chief at Nikki. They despatched expedition to Nikki but found that Captain Lugard had recently concluded a treaty on behalf of RN Company

1897 (Jan) To counter effect of Emir of Nupe (kingdom above confluence of Niger and Benue) who theoretically owed allegiance to Sultan of Sokoto – slave raiding etc, expedition of 550 constabulary led by Goldie went from Lokoja to Bida and deposed the Emir, replacing with the heir apparent. Goldie moved on to treat with Emir of Ilorin (also allegiance to S of Sokoto). Returned to Lokoja

1898 Anglo-French agreement signed in Paris with compromise drawing new line at west of RNC territory

1898 British Government formed an Imperial force, under Colonel Lugard and officer staff but locally recruited, to deal with matters such as those dealth with at Bida and Ilorin and also to deal with French on NW frontie of territories. It was called the West Africa Frontier Force, independent of the RN Company and had HQ at Jebba above Ilorin

p41-42

1900 (1 Jan) British Government took over responsibilities previously held by the RNC. Territory to be divided in two with Protectorate of Southern Nigeria administered by Oil Rivers Protectorate (transferred from Foreign to Colonial Office). Protectorate of Northern Nigeria to be administered under a High Commissioner. RNC then became a trading concern again.

[Geary p210 WAFF was 2000 but in April 1900 more than half went to Gold Coast – Ashanti campaign at Kumasi. Force returned in December 1900 – see p87 below. Also troops in 1900 were lent to SN for Aro campaign]

p43

Praise for the work and management of the Niger Company to 1900, leading to confidence in the incoming British administration

p51-2

Description of the tribes around the Benue – some 100miles north, they are very independent of each other, hardly knowing beyond the next village

p58-9

Some areas taken over by Mohamedans in the past and now are established emirates. Yola, just S of Benue, far east, was part of province of Adamawa which extended into German Cameroon, that part handed over in 1886 and 1893. Slave trading prevalent in 1851. Further north – empires of Sokoto to the west and Bornu to the east from the Niger to Lake Chad with walled cities and some learned people. Bornu empire had been extensive across to Egypt and Libya but diminished. Early 19th century leader drove out invaders (inc Fulah Empire of Sokoto) and maintained it in current state, became Sheikh but there was still a figurehead Sultan. After Sultan rose against Sheikh in 1840s he lost so Sheikh (Shehu) became sole leader. At 1900 there was no formal treaty with GB as the Sheikh had been prevneted from concluding an agreement with the Niger Company.

p71

Fulani rule under Othman dan Fodio of area which became based on Sokoto – eastern states under Bello (Katsina, Kano, Zaria, Bauchi), western/southern (Nupe, Ilorin) under Abd Allahi based at Gando (SW of Sokoto). All states with nominal spiritual allegiance to Sokoto but some independence if action.

p76

All goods for Northern Nigeria would pass through ports in Protectorate of Lagos or Southern Nigeria and duty would be paid at the port wherever goods headed. Colonel Lugard was asked to plan for administration of the Protectorate as he had been Commandant of WAFF raised in 1898 (£86k for admin + £50k for buildings and steamers + £75k voted for military force + proportion of customs receipts in S.Nigeria also for military). Chiefs were considered rulers, so GB provided “Residents”.

p79

Fleet on the Niger for all transport – 1 stern-wheel steamer, 5 launches, 2 pinnacles, 2 hulks (purchased from Royal Niger Company). Two more stern-wheel steamers ordered but not supplied until 1901. Postmaster + native staff. Director of Public Works with Assistant, executive engineers and European and native staff, became responsible for constructing telegraphs.

p81

Officials considered to need 6 months leave for health reasons, including travel home and back, for a year spent in West Africa.

p82

Lokoja became centre of administration from the start [Geary p211 some depots 30 miles below Lokoja at Quendon]  
WAFF was added to by the Niger Company Constabulary (- volunteers who went to S.Nigeria and the Gold Coast). 50 became civil police and rest distributed in areas of protectorate which were effectively occupied.

Aim was for civil police force overall. 9 political officers initially (Wallace, Hewby, Burdon, Carnegie + 5 appointed during 1900. They were placed at centres on the banks of the rivers.

Caravan roads passed through Mohamedan and pagan territory. When caravans camped in the latter they were subject to attack from local tribes, partly in retaliation for slave raiding. Emir of Bida and Emir of Kontagora were partial to slave raiding and exacting tolls from caravans travelling from Kano to the Niger. E of K had deposed the Emir installed by Goldie.

p87

HQ to be established away from unhealthy valleys of Niger and Benue. River Kaduna (met Niger about 120 miles above Lokoja) was found navigable for 80miles. Highest navigable point Wushishi [Gearyp215: Wushunshi] (under Emir of Kontagora used as war camp or advanced post). 1900: WAFF garrison established at Wushishi. Emirs had suspected European control would limit slave raiding so started attacking neighbouring pagan tribes, but Ashanti War broke out and needed troops (1200+) from Northern Nigeria. Wushishi became exposed to joint attack by the Emirs (B & K). NN temporary HQ at Jebba; Emirs tried to get tried to get tribes to rise against British, and raided close to Jebba. Officer commanding tried to arrest Emir in Bida but left wounded.

p89

Munshi tribe on north bank of Benue attacked party constructing telegraph from Lokoja to Ibi. Punishing expedition sent. Another also when Carnegie was killed near Lokoja. December 1900 troops returned from Ashanti. Jan 1901 expedition to Kontagora, captured the town [Geary:under Gen.Kemball] , Emir escaped. WAFF garrison remained there, the rest went to Kaduna River (greeted by population on the way delighted by removal of Emir). Lugard tried to get Emir of Bida to meet him; only subordinates sent back, so Lugard went to Bida but Emir [Geary p 215: Abu Beckru] fled first. Lugard reinstalled person appointed previously by Goldie. A Resident and garrison was left at Bida. (Noted that where Fulanis, considered capable and intelligent, were ruling they should continue, rather than installing local people – supported by the Resident)

p93

Lugard looked out for new potential administrative HQ. Survey based in Wushishi, went to plateau east of River Kaduna, about 1 mile from river, on a stream. This became HQ, Zungeru; light rail line under construction to the river.

In 1900 9 provinces had been set up – Illorin, Kabba (with Lokoja), Middle Niger, Lower Benue, Upper Benue, Nupe (Bida), Kontagora, Borgu, Zaria – each with Resident and native courts. Proclamations included prohibition of import of liquor, prohibition of acquisition of land by non-native from native without Lugard’s permission, abolition of legal status of slavery.

p98

[Geary p210 some WAFF to Aro again in 1901 and some to 2nd Ashanti campaign – see just below]

Spring 1901 Lugard on leave, Wallace i/c. 6-700 troops again sent to Ashanti war (April to October). October 300 troops sent to Southern Nigeria against the Aro tribes. Mahomedan states along northern border remained aloof – no reply from Sultan of Sokoto, and Bornu and Bauchi too distant.

Summer 1901 rail line to Zungeru was underway, completed and first train by Christmas (2 foot gauge), eventually 20 miles long to convenient river site for transport of materials to build Zungeru.

p100

Summer 1901 At Yola, despite previous treaties with Niger Company flag hauled down at the Company hulk in the Benue River (no shore station allowed by Emir of Yola). Emir was devoted slave trader, would not respond to conciliation. Yola was stormed by troops arriving by river [Geary p215: 365 under Colonel Morland] and Emir fled; his heir was installed.

p102

Following French fighting with natives in Lake Chad/Bornu area they installed a ruler in Bornu to avoid being attacked in their sphere. They drove Fadr-el Allah into the interior of Bornu and withdrew. Lugard anxious either to form agreement with Fadr-el Allah or to drive him out, towards end of 1900, but very short of troops. F appealed to British for protection, promising to obey the Administration. Resident on Upper Benue had received F in a friendly manner but Lugard wanted to maintain relations with French and was not keen to support, and did not trust, F. June 1901 an officer met F, formed high opinion of him and suggested recognition as Emir of Bornu. Negotiations pending, F attacked French again, but was pursued back into British territory and killed at Gujba. French liberated Bornu captives and withdrew to their territory at end of 1901 so potential anarchy in Bornu.

p106

February 1902 expedition under Col Morland (Commandant of NN forces) from Ibi on Benue River towards Bauchi (with Wallace as Resident). Emir had been slave raiding even on his own people. Emir fled before Morland and troops arrived, so installed his heir. They left a resident and a garrison.

Troops went on towards Gombe; Mallam Jibrella had taken much of the area around the Gongola River and was aiming to take Gombe. He attacked British troops but lost, was pursued and captured and held in exile in Lokoja. Troops moved on to Gujba, left a garrison and remainder moved towards Lake Chad. French force were holding Sheikh of Bornu against indemnity of $50k. His followers were trying to extract this money from local people. Morland got him to return to Kukawa [Geary p216: Kuka] and secured his leadership, stopping French claiming the money. Germans also in the area so necessary to establish the boundary; a Joint Commission was established. A company of troops was left with a Resident at Kukawa. The area needed to be brought back to peace and prosperity.

p110

April 1902 expedition started return to Lokoja via Yola. Several attacks on them between Yola and Ibi, but arrived back safely in June.

Early 1902 a Resident (of Nassarawa province) placed at Keffi (on main caravan route from Zaria to the Benue). Keffi was also HQ for the “Magaji” deputy to the Emir of Zaria.

June 1902 lawlessness led to expedition of British troops to Abuja (60m NW of Keffi) A new chief was installed. The Magaji was not keen on British form of law but local chief in Keffi was willing to support British Resident. The latter tried to meet and reason with Magaji, but unsuccessfully so troops were called up. Magaji fled, but shot the Resident [Geary p216: Capt Malony] on the way, then was well received by Emir of Kano [Geary p216: Alieu].

p113

January 1902 Emir of Zaria asked British for help against deposed Emir of Kontagora who was causing trouble in the area. British had asked Sultan of Sokoto to nominate a new Emir for Kontagora but had no reply. Emir of Kontagora was captured and taken to Lokoja, but with no one to take over the British reinstalled him at Kontagora where he worked with the Resident successfully. Also a Resident and garrison were stationed at Zaria. Kano was hostile to British, and Emir of Zaria began to intrigue with Kano, and set out to extort levies from local people saying that the British required it.

[Geary p213: two letters in May-June 1902 protested against British]

September 1902 The Resident had been unable to gain co-operation of Emir of Zaria, so he decided to have him taken to the High Commissioner and got him escorted to Zungeru, while deciding how to manage the situation in the northern part of the territory.

September 1902 High Commissioner’s HQ transferred from Jebba to Zungeru. In general, providing enough buildings at out-stations was difficult because of poor transport. Previous trading stations had been on Niger and Benue rivers. Stations at Lokoja, Ibi, Yola were on the river, but Bida, Iloring, Keffi, Kontagora at least 4 days march from the river. Bauchi, Bornu and Zaria were 12-14 days march from the nearest river port. [Geary p212 tramway to Barijuko on Kaduna River]

p117

A fortnightly mail service had been established but often delayed by shortage of runners or carriers. Carriage of heavy goods would depend on the river being in flood.

p120

Relationships with northern states needed to be improved to make the caravan routes safe and to enable trade and therefore a source of income for the local people and for the British. This was needed to replace finance they had gained from slave trading. Sultan of Sokoto, to whom many others had some allegiance, refused to have anything to do with the British.

p125

Anglo-French Boundary Commission arrived at Lokoja 1 November 1902 to define the boundary from the Niger in the west to Lake Chad in the east. End 1902 stores and troops collected at Zaria to support expeditions to Kano and Sokoto. Reserve troops came from Lagos and Southern Nigeria.

29 January 1903 24 officers and 700 WAFF troops left Zaria for Kano. One town taken between Zaria and Kano, and then Kano was taken (3 Feb) as the Emir (Alieu) had gone to Sokoto with 2000 horsemen. A Resident and garrison were left there and troops went on to Sokoto. Emir of Katsina agreed to co-operate. Troops going to Sokoto were attacked by a force of the Emir of Kano returning from Sokoto, but he himself fled. As the troops neared the town they were reinforced by a WAFF garrison from further north-west. The Sultan’s forces fled from Sokoto. After a few days the High Commissioner arrived from Kano where he had instaled an Emir. The Waziri of Sokoto surrendered with 3 other chiefs (21 March). In co-operation with them a new legitimate Sultan was installed. High Commissioner announced why British had taken over and was accepted. Expeditionary force broke up; a Resident and garrison were left. High Commissioner went to do the same in Katsina (28 March) and then in Kano (2 April). He then went to Zaria and installed a legitimate Emir.

14 April 1903 HC returned to Zungeru.

Ex-Sultan of Sokoto joined with ex-Emir of Bida, Magaji of Keffi etc to cause a problem. This was initially south-east of Sokoto, then ex-Sultan said he was going to Mecca on pilgrimage. The group attracted and created fanaticism and more supporters. Troops from Kano came to break it up, together with a small force from Bauchi. A son of former Mallam Jibrella had taken over town of Burmi near banks of Golgola River; British troops called there to buy supplies but were attacked unexpectedly. They backed up to Bauchi and an expeditionary force was sent from Lokoja. Ex-Sultan and followers joined up with Muslims at Burmi.

27 July 1903 Fighting at Burmi, British commander killed but town was eventually taken, with heavy losses on both sides; ex-Sultan of Sokoto and Magaji of Keffi were killed. This was considered to be the completion of the task of pacifying the country and stopping slave raiding.

p141

A police officer apppointed in each area to deal with police duties and to relieve tne Resident of some activities. This person was partly responsible to the Resident and partly to the Chief Commissioner in Zungeru. Residents responsible directly to the High Commissioner. Orders and information were published in the Government Gazette monthly. High Commissioner sent Political Memoranda to the Residents. Residents reported each month, though later each quarter, on their province. Main taxes were a toll on goods carried from the interior to the coast and back by caravans, and a toll on canoes (annual 5/- to £3). Caravan taxes were 5% of value in each province, but maximum of 15%. The country was gradually opened up by the improvement of by-roads and the decision of small groups to use them and avoid tolls rather than being on a main caravan route.

p170

early 1903 WAFF increased by mounted infantry regiment to serve on northern frontier

December 1903 Resident of Bassa (Capt. Riardon), central south of Benue, killed by pagans [Geary: also military officer, V.Barnes]. Expedition from Lokoja to collect body and reparation.

1904 Minor expeditions in Kabba, Kontagora, Yola, Bauchi to stop lawlessness.

Provinces being divided into administrative divisions each with junior Resident and detachments of police or constabulary

1904-5 more steamers on the main rivers; tributaries explored, move from human to animal transport; cart road begun from Zungeru to Zaria and Kano.

1905 Anglo-French Boundary Commission completed work on northern border, and Anglo-German Commission of Yola to Lake Chad.

January 1906 Dispute between Hausas and local natives at “a town on the Benue” within range of Munshi tribesmen (Abinsi). Large expedition to sort it, and to protect navigation on the Benue for British and Germans. Also a Marabout outlaw from French territories came to a village in NW, near Sokoto, preaching jihad. Sultan of Sokoto reported it to the Resident. Resident went with assistant and medical officer, supported by mounted infantry from the garrison, but aiming not to use force, to meet the Marabout [Geary pp222/223: at Satiru 14 Feb]. He tried to do that without the force, but was attacked disastrously and killed with staff and many soldiers. A doctor escaped and via runners and the telegraph (80 miles from Sokoto) alerted the High Commissioner in Zungeru and a further force about 100 miles from Sokoto (Kaura?). So forces not easily available over in south east were called back and 75 others left Zungeru, joined by garrison from Kontagora; also 100 from Lokoja were summoned and two mounted companies from Kano, all to Sokoto. Insurgents didn’t go forward to Sokoto but raided local villages. When forces arrived the insurgents were dispersed, leader executed in Sokoto after trial by native court.

p176

April 1906 force to Hadeija, where Emir had never been keen to co-operate. Emir was killed and his heir installed with letter of appointment by British.

Early 1906 some unrest around Bauchi by jihad preachers but Emir co-operated with British resident and lead preacher was executed.

p179

June 1906 Lugard resigned; William Wallace acting i/c.

p182

Wallace invested Sultan of Sokoto with OMG for loyalty and services. Jan 1907 Sir Percy Girouard appointed to succeed Lugard.

Reference back to surveys done in 1903/4 of possible railway routes from R.Niger to the north, to Zaria. 1905 Cart road had been created from Zungeru to Zaria (centre of cotton growing). April 1907 Girouard prepared report on railway possibilities; Aug 1907 agreement given to go ahead with Baro-Kano (350miles) at 3’6” gauge like the Lagos railway (also agreement to extend Lagos railway (Lagos – Ilorin (27/8/08) – Jebba (8/09)) to a junction (Minna) near Zungeru with train ferry at Jebba (later a bridge - 1915)). By June 1908 140 miles of location survey complete and 170 miles further of reconnaisance, including WAFF officers and others. Also identified areas of difficulty on the Niger with view to clearing channel to Baro.

p187

Note of tin mining in Bauchi area – current movement by carrier to Loko, then on Benue to Lokoja, then Niger to coast. Suggested additional railway from Kano to Bauchi would make carriage much easier. Orr comments on educative value of railway works for the natives. Baro-Kano Railway due to be opened in 1912 (2ft6in gauge).

Girouard on leave early 1908, returned in June, toured and met Emirs. April 1909 Girouard – now called Governor - on leave again (leaving Wallace i/c) and then appointed as G of East Africa so did not return. In Dec 1909 Sir Henry Hesketh Bell arrived as Governor.

p194

[Geary p230: Lugard returned as Governor]

Geary

Re S Nigeria

1900 High Commissioner of Protectorate of SN Sir Ralph Moor

1904 High Commissioner of Protectorate of SN Mr Walter Egerton

4 March 1901 Railway opened Lagos to Ibadan

22 April 1901 extension – eastern route to Oshogbo

P144 ref to wrecking of SS Bassa on Kuka Rock below Lokoja – carrying railway equipment and tools – much lost

P145 Railway costs listed

P146 Steam dredger Egerton arrived to dredge Lagos bar – Stone for the mole was brought from Abeokuta, on to barges at Iddo

1909 dredger Sandgrouse arrived

P209 List of books on Northern Nigeria and p214 history of conquest written by Lugard in the blue book Reports