

the headwaters of the Paranatinga "ups-and-downs," and toward the line. When Karl von den Steinen through the area around 1885, he ranches in the area.

part of the 1800s is scarce, but an e horrible conditions under which the Bakairí lived in two impover- nga River and the headwaters of a while by expeditions of adven- n introduced syphilis and measles serious killer of Indians in South airí who, not knowing how to treat ook cold baths to find relief (von

Bakairí continued to live in the os Rivers where they had fled the as the Nambiquara and Kayabí. who lived by hunting, fishing, and t potatoes, beans, and sugar cane, Few spoke Portuguese (von den

eat Brazilian Indianist, provide us the Bakairí and such indigenous ding between the two groups was abí controlled the stone ax trade, a metal tools were still scarce. who were found in a Bakairí vil- r childhood by a Bakairí raiding aranatinga River where they were een the Kayabí and the Bakairí as

ave been able to lump the Bakairí verged in the nineteenth century. were absorbed into the ranching some Portuguese, and sold arti- nen met some of them in 1887 in t P. I. Santana, a reservation that

anatinga River. At a certain point rly nineteenth century, a group of s of the Xingú River, one of the hey settled on the banks of the ear record of the reasons for this d they now tell begins with them

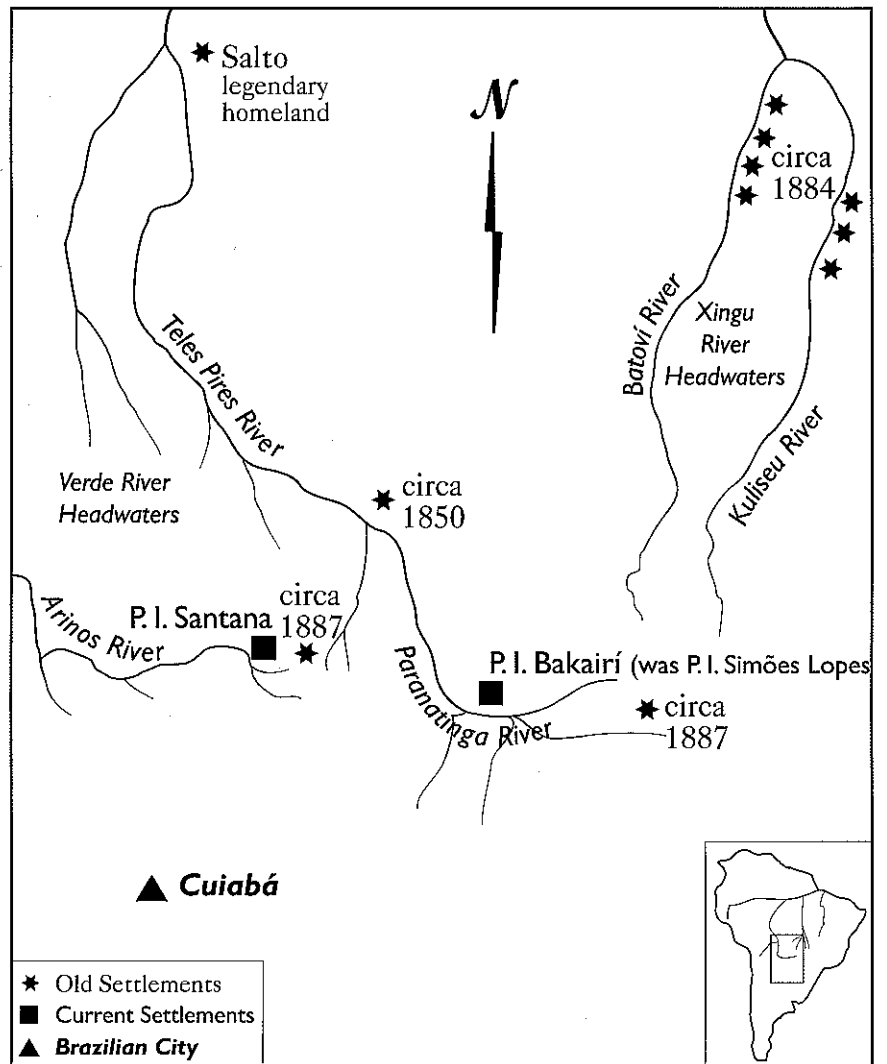


Figure 3-1 Old and current Bakairí settlements.

living at the Salto, a waterfall near the Paranatinga River, which lies north of where they are located today. Political infighting riddled their village, and one group decided to secretly form a new settlement. They took a trip to the Xingú River headwaters where they made a large garden. Over the next few months, they cultivated this garden in secret until the crops were ready to harvest. Then they stealthily gathered up all of their belongings and left without saying goodbye. The story concludes with the observation that several years passed before the Bakairí who remained at the Salto realized how they had been tricked (Pina 1977).