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CHIEFS AND FAMILIES
OF
NOTE IN THE PUNJAB.

A REVISED EDITION OF "THE PUNJAB CHIEFS."

BY

SIR LEPEL H. GRIFFIN, K.C.S.I.,

AND OF

"CHIEFS AND FAMILIES OF NOTE IN THE PUNJAB."

BY

COLONEL CHARLES FRANCIS MASSY, INDIAN STAFF CORPS

Revised and corrected, under the orders of the Punjab Government.

BY

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Preface to the Original Edition of the “Punjab Chiefs.”

The histories of the Punjab Chiefs have been written by desire of Sir Robert Montgomery, Lieutenant-Governor of the Punjab.

The first portion of the work includes all the chiefs and Sardars of the plain country of the Punjab proper, from the Beas to the Indus. The second portion, which will be shortly published, treats of the outlying districts and dependencies of the province; the Cis-Sutlej States; the Jullundur² Doab; the Rajput Hill States; the Derajat and Peshawar; Bahawalpur³ and Kashmir, and the Delhi territory.*

The intention of the work has been to give a picture of the Punjab aristocracy as it exists at the present day. No mention has accordingly been made of many families, Hindu and Muhammadan, once powerful and wealthy, which fell before the Sikhs. No mention has been made of many old Sikh families, whose *jagirs* were seized by Maharaja Ranjit Singh, and whose descendants are now plain husbandmen. A few notices of tribes and families of no present importance have, for special reasons, been given; but, as a general rule, only the histories of those men have been written who possess, at the present time, rank, wealth or local influence.

It has not been found practicable to give, in the body of the work, the authorities for every statement advanced; and it may therefore be well to mention here the sources from which the information has been derived.

* Sir Lepel Griffin did not carry out his intention of publishing this second portion of the work.



In the first place, each chief has sent a history of his family : sometimes meagre and fragmentary, sometimes full and connected, in many cases exaggerated and false.

Secondly, the whole records of the Punjab Government from annexation to the present year, the letters of the British Agents at Delhi and Ludhiana from 1809 to 1845, and the records of the old Sikh Government, have been largely made use of.

Thirdly, almost all histories, travels and memoirs relating to the Punjab, in English, Persian and Urdu, have been consulted.

Fourthly, the actors in, and eye-witnesses of the events described have been questioned ; a large number of the chiefs and Sardars, with their bards and family priests, have been examined personally ; and from their statements much new and interesting information has been gained.

Among those to whom acknowledgments are due for assistance in the preparation of the work are Pandit Manphul, Extra Assistant Commissioner, attached to the Secretariat, whose learning and great local knowledge have been invaluable ; Syad Hadi Hussain Khan, Extra Assistant Commissioner, Gujrat ; and Maulvi Rajab Ali Khan, Khan Bahadur, of Ludhiana.

LEPEL H. GRIFFIN.



Preface to the Second Edition of the “Punjab Chiefs.”

THE PUNJAB CHIEFS, published more than twenty-five years ago, is out of print. Sir Lepel Griffin, then an Assistant Commissioner, wrote the biographies of the leading families of the existing Lahore and Rawalpindi Divisions. In the present edition his text has not been interfered with; and my share of the work has been confined to the mention of changes which have since affected the families. Some of the so-called chiefs, even in this short space, have sunk into insignificance, or have been thrust out of the front rank by the better educated and more pushing men of the present day. Others are rapidly passing out of importance. But as a literary and historical record, Sir Lepel Griffin's work will keep fresh to the end of time; and as a book of reference, it will be prized as long as this country is administered by British officials.

Sir Lepel Griffin was unable to carry out his intention of completing the histories. His work on the Rajas of the Punjab was a step in this direction; but he left untouched the whole of the North-West Frontier, most of the Himalayan tracts, and much of the Southern and Eastern Punjab. The duty of filling up these gaps has devolved upon me. The work is finished and will very shortly be published as a separate book.*

In connection with the present publication, I have to acknowledge the valuable assistance given me by Messrs. J. W. Gardiner, J. Wilson, E. Nicholl, and Baron Bentinck and Captain Dunlop Smith, as well as Rai Lachhman Das and Lala Ram

* Chiefs and Families of Note in the Punjab.



Nath. The editing of this new edition was in the first instance entrusted to Colonel C. H. T. Marshall, who, before his transfer to Hyderabad, had collected some materials which I have made use of.

CHARLES FRANCIS MASSY.

KAPURTHALA :

1st September 1890.



Preface to the "Chiefs and Families of Note in the Punjab."

THE PUNJAB CHIEFS, written more than a quarter of a century ago, dealt with the histories of the leading men in the districts between the Beas and the Indus, now known as the Lahore and Rawalpindi Divisions. A new edition has been recently prepared by me, in which these histories have been brought down to date.

The present work practically completes the biographies of the families of note in the Province. It covers the Delhi, Jullundur, Peshawar and Derajat Divisions, and includes short notices of the Ruling Chiefs.

I was asked "to write a business-like book of reference for District and Administrative Officers, studying brevity and eschewing minute detail." These instructions I have obeyed at the sacrifice of much interesting matter which came under my hand. The book will not attract the general reader; but it will probably be found useful as one of reference, and every endeavour has been made to secure an accurate record of modern facts affecting the families. The histories were reviewed in type by the Honourable the Lieutenant-Governor, and by the various District Officers of the Province.

I have great pleasure in making my acknowledgments to the friends who assisted me in the preparation of this work. It had been, in the first instance, entrusted to Colonel C. H. T. Marshall, who collected a large amount of material before his transfer to Hyderabad. Mr. Longworth Dames placed at my disposal his manuscript history of Dera Ghazi Khan; and Mr.



Manuel, Head Clerk of the Dharamsala District Office, submitted excellent notes of the Kangra Rajputs, of which I have made much use. I have further received valuable help from Messrs. A. F. D. Cunningham, E. B. Francis, W. R. H. Merk, G. R. Drummond, J. Douie, A. Kensington and Baron Bentinck, as well as from Rai Lachhman Das, who helped me to correct the early proofs and Lalas Ram Nath, Gauri Shankar, Piyare Mohan, Rup Singh, Har Narayan and Amir Chand. In addition to the information furnished by the Darbaris themselves, I derived assistance from the various Settlement Reports of the Province, especially those of Messrs. O'Brien, Thorburn, Purser, Ibbetson, Fanshawe, T. G. Walker and Steedman. The accounts of the Ruling Chiefs are mainly an abstract of Griffin's *Rajas of the Punjab*, with modern facts added. It was thought advisable to include them so as to make the work complete as a book of reference.

CHARLES FRANCIS MASSY.

KAPURTHALA :

1st September, 1890.



Preface to the New Edition.

The last editions of the "Punjab Chiefs" and "Chiefs and Families of Note" in the Punjab were issued by Major C. F. Massy in 1890, and in the years that have since elapsed many changes have occurred among the families whose histories are included in the work. Early in 1907, His Honour Sir Charles Rivaz decided that revision and the preparation of a new edition should be undertaken, in order to rectify omissions and inaccuracies and to bring the work generally up to date.

Sir Lepel Griffin's original work dealt only with families of the present Lahore, Rawalpindi and Multan Divisions. Major Massy's "Chiefs and Families of Note" contained the histories of the leading families of the Delhi, Jullundur, Derajat and Peshawar Divisions, and those of the Ruling Chiefs of the Native States under the control of the Punjab Government. In the present editions the two books have been amalgamated. Families belonging to the present Frontier Province have been omitted; those belonging to British districts of the Punjab have been arranged in the topographical sequence of districts usually followed in Government publications; while the families of Ruling Chiefs have been arranged in the order of their official precedence.

As little change as possible has been made in the matter originally written by Sir Lepel Griffin, and the aim of the editors has been only to correct any obvious inaccuracies and to bring the histories and pedigree-tables up to date, by including in them an account of any changes that have occurred since the publication of the last edition. Information as to these changes had in most cases to be obtained through District Officers, to whose



assistance the editors desire to express their acknowledgments. Mention must particularly be made of the careful and accurate information submitted by Mr. T. Millar, Deputy Commissioner of Kangra, Mr. C. W. Jacob, Assistant Commissioner at Gujranwala, and Sayad Amir Ali Shah, Head Clerk to the Deputy Commissioner of Dera Ghazi Khan.

Certain families have been omitted from the new edition which, in the opinion of Government, now occupied a position that did not warrant their retention. On the other hand very many applications for inclusion in the new edition were received from families not mentioned in previous editions. In the difficult task of deciding which of these applicants to admit, Government has been materially assisted by a strong and representative Committee of the Punjab Chiefs' Association, to which the Honourable Sardar Partab Singh, c. s. l., of Jullundur, acted as Secretary. To him, and to the other members of the Committee, the thanks of Government are due.

The pedigree-tables, which appear at the head of the history of each family, have in many cases been considerably abbreviated in order to save space. The names of the less important members of each family have been omitted from these tables where their insertion was not required in order to follow the text of the history. Complete pedigree-tables of all families have, however, as far as possible been inserted in the Appendix.

The task of editing and revising the work was originally entrusted to Major W. L. Conran, formerly Inspecting Officer of Imperial Service Troops, who assumed charge of his duties on April 5th, 1907. Major Conran was, however, compelled by ill-health to take leave in April 1908, and since that date I have been in charge of the work in addition to my ordinary duties.

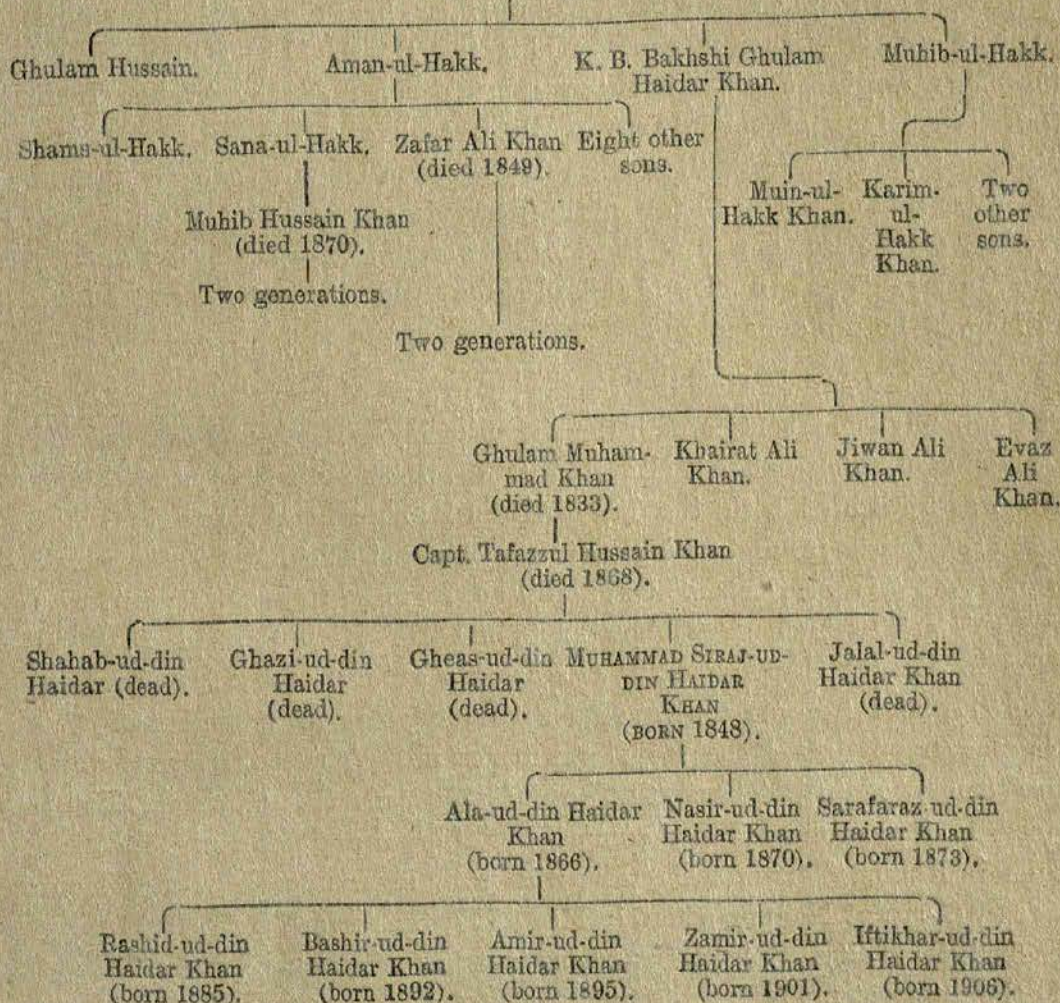


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CHIEFS AND FAMILIES OF NOTE IN THE PUNJAB.

MUHAMMAD SIRAJ-UD-DIN HAIDAR KHAN OF FARUKHNAGAR.

NUR-UL-HAKK.



Shaikh Umar-ud-din came from Bokhara with Sultan Shahab-ud-din Ghorî, and settled at Sultanpur near the junction of the Beas with the Sutlej. His sons moved down to Delhi and were appointed Muftis of the present town of Rewari. This honourable office remained



with the family for some generations. Aman-ul-Hakk, in the time of Akbar-i-Sani (Akbar II) of Delhi, took service with Raghoji Rao Bhonsle, Raja of Nagpur, and served him for many years. His grandson, Muhib Hussain Khan, was given the Subadarship of Bhandara in Nagpur; and when the British annexed the State in 1853 on the death of the third Raghoji Rao without issue, he was appointed an Extra Assistant Commissioner in the Central Provinces. He died in 1870. His eldest son, Nur-ud-din Hussain Khan, was for some years a Risaldar in the Nagpur Mounted Police.

Zafar Ali Khan, son of Aman-ul-Hakk, held the post of Subadar in Nagpur for nine years on a salary of Rs. 6,000 per annum, and after his death in 1840 his five sons received small pensions from the State. One of them, Inayat Ali Khan, was for some years an Honorary Magistrate at Rewari in the Gurgaon District, being in receipt of a pension of Rs. 600 for military services, and Abdul Ali Khan, another of the sons, was a Risaldar in the 2nd Punjab Cavalry during the Mutiny. Their uncle, Muhib-ul-Hakk, was for some years Judge of Nagpur before annexation.

Bakhshi Ghulam Haidar Khan, great-grandfather of the present head of the family, took service with the Nizam of Hyderabad, and commanded a small contingent under Wellington at the Battle of Assaye in 1803. He was rewarded with the title of Khan Bahadur, and received a *muafi* grant of fourteen hundred *bighas* in the Rewari Tahsil. He afterwards transferred his services to Raghoji Rao Bhonsle, Raja of Nagpur, who was poisoned by his nephew, Apa Sahib, in 1816. Khan Bahadur Bakhshi Ghulam Haidar Khan opposed Apa Sahib's attempt against the English in 1817, and he was continued for twelve years in command of the Nagpur troops after the Raja was driven out. Three of his sons were also employed in the army. The eldest, Ghulam Muhammad Khan, succeeded him in the military command at Nagpur and left a son, Tafazzul Hussain Khan, afterwards Captain, who was in command of the local Cavalry Corps at Nagpur when, in May 1857, the news of the Delhi Mutiny reached that city. To his exertions was in a measure due the failure of the attempt made by his regiment to stir up a rebellion in that part of India. He was rewarded with a commission as Risaldar in the Mounted Police and the title of Sardar Bahadur. In 1860 he was granted *biswedari* and *jagir* rights in Farukhnagar and Rewari in the Gurgaon District, yielding Rs. 6,000 annually, subject



GURGAON DISTRICT.

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to a *nazarana* deduction of Rs. 1,500. This grant was continued to his son, Muhammad Siraj-ud-din Haidar Khan, who succeeded him as head of the family and as a Divisional Darbari. In 1868 Muhammad Siraj-ud-din was appointed an Honorary Magistrate and Sub-Registrar of Farukhnagar, the registration powers being withdrawn in 1893 as there was no work. In 1877 he was given second class magisterial powers and also civil powers to hear cases up to a limit of Rs. 300. The latter powers were enhanced to Rs. 500 in 1884. He was also for a time President of the local Municipal Committee, but resigned this position in 1893. His extravagance unfortunately led the family into great monetary difficulties, and in 1886 his affairs were placed under the Court of Wards, and eventually the Government of India, in consideration of the services of his father and grandfather, sanctioned a loan at 4 per cent. of Rs. 42,000. This loan has been paid off, but the *jagirdar* is still said to be somewhat heavily in debt. Besides the money derived from the *jagir*, the family has no other source of income.

Muhammad Siraj-ud-din has three sons. The eldest, Ala-ud-din Haidar Khan, is Sarbarah Zaildar and helps his father in the management of his estate. The second, Nasir-ud-din Haidar Khan, was educated at the Aitchison College, Lahore, and was appointed a Naib Tahsildar in 1902 in the Hissar District. Sarafaraz-ud-din Haidar, the third son, is a Judicial Muharrir at Palwal in this district. His name is entered in the Divisional list of candidates for the post of Naib Tahsildar.

Mauz-ud-din Hussain Khan, a member of this family, holds an appointment as "Manzabdar" under the Nizam's Government.



A ZIM-USH-SHAN

Humayun Bakht.

Mirza Izzat Afza

(= Nawab Umda-tuz-Zamani Nisa Begam,
daughter of Alamgir II,
King of Delhi).

Mirza Shujaat Afza

alias Mirza Bhuchu.

Mirza Hidayat Afza

alias Mirza Ilahi Bakhsh
(died 1878).

Mirza Suleman Shah
(died 1890).

MIRZA SURAYA JAH
alias Kaiwan Shah
(born 1858. Recognized as representative
of ex-Royal family of Delhi, 1890).

Mirza Ikbal Shah
(died 1892).

Mirza Jawan Bakht.

Mirza Muhammad Shah.

Mirza Suraya Jah *alias* Kaiwan Shah takes the leading place on the list of Provincial Darbaris of the Delhi District. He inherited position and fortune from his father, Mirza Ilahi Bakhsh, whose devotion to the British cause in 1857 was of the highest value ; and he is connected with the Royal House of Delhi through Nawab Umda-tuz-Zamani Nisa Begam, daughter of Alamgir II. Mirza Ilahi Bakhsh had considerable influence in the Palace through the friendship borne him by the Begam Zinat Mahal, favourite wife of Bahadur Shah, last King of Delhi. A daughter of the Mirza was married to the King's eldest son, Fateh-ul-Mulk Mirza Fakhru, who died shortly before the outbreak of the Mutiny. Mirza Ilahi Bakhsh remained inside the city during the siege, and was able to furnish important intelligence of the movements of the rebels, and to assist and protect our agents. He did his utmost to save the lives of a party of 50 Christians, who were cruelly massacred, ostensibly with the King's knowledge, within the Palace precincts, and materially assisted our military operations by cutting the bridge-of-boats over the Jumna, opposite the city, thus stopping the entry of supplies and rebel reinforcements.



ments from the eastern side. Later on he brought about the peaceful surrender of the King, and helped Hodson in effecting the capture of the Princes Khizar Sultan and Abul Bakar, thus dealing the rebellion a death-blow by depriving the disaffected of their hereditary leaders. The Mirza's conduct was fully enquired into at close of the rebellion and suitably rewarded. Hereditary pensions, aggregating Rs. 22,830 per annum, with effect from 1st May 1857, were granted to him and his family in the following proportions :—

| | Rs. |
|--------------------------------|-------|
| To the Mirza personally | 9,550 |
| „ his wives | 4,530 |
| „ his daughters | 7,670 |
| „ his other relatives | 1,080 |

Further, in 1861, in lieu of an assignment enjoyed by him jointly with others before the Mutiny from the villages of Sampla and Asanda in the Rohtak District, the Government of India granted to the Mirza solely a perpetual *jagir* of the value of Rs. 5,000 per annum, and in 1866 released to him and his family the revenues of certain villages in the Delhi and Meerut Districts yielding Rs. 2,226 annually. He was awarded Rs. 1,14,376 as compensation for loss of property incurred during the siege. In 1872 he was allowed to borrow Rs. 35,000 from Government. More than one-half of this sum was subsequently wiped out of the accounts as a matter of favour to the Mirza. An addition of Rs. 2,250 was made to his pension in 1877 on the occasion of the assumption by Her late Majesty of the title of Empress. Mirza Ilahi Bakhsh died in 1878 and was succeeded by his eldest son, Mirza Suleman Shah, who died in 1890. In the same year Mirza Suraya Jah alias Kaiwan Shah was recognized as chief representative of the Mughals in place of his elder brother. The Mirza is exempt from personal appearance in the civil courts; is an Honorary Magistrate and Municipal Commissioner, and is also a member of the Managing Committee of the Jama Masjid, the Fatehpuri Masjid and the Anglo-Arabic High School. The pension inherited by the Mirza and his family amounts to Rs. 2,090 per mensem, of which Rs. 876 are the Mirza's personal pension, the rest being divided among his relatives. When the Delhi College ceased to exist in 1877 the Mirza made great efforts to re-establish the institution, securing promises of subscription amounting to Rs. 72,000, but his exertions did not meet with success. He subsequently founded the Shahzada High School on the 9th November 1889. The expenditure on this school,



DELHI DISTRICT.

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amounting to Rs. 300 per mensem, after deducting the grant-in-aid of Rs. 49 per mensem, is met by the Mirza from his own pocket. He has also given the building called "Chandni Mahal", rentable at Rs. 40 or Rs. 50 per mensem, rent-free for the use of the school.

As a member of the Managing Committee of the Jama Masjid he superintended the expenditure of Rs. 1,55,000 given by the Nawab of Rampur for the repair of the masjid. He is a Haji and a Hafiz.

The Mirza married the daughter of His late Highness Nawab Muhammad Ali Khan of Tonk. His mother, Nawab Abadi Begam Sahiba, was a grand-daughter of the Emperor Akbar Shah.

Through the Mirza's intercession the Government of India sanctioned pensions in 1891 for 50 females and 5 males, and in 1897 for 62 females and 40 males, of Mughal origin, on the ground of their poverty.

The following persons, of Mughal descent, also deserve mention :—

Mirza Farkhunda Jamal, son of Mirza Fateh-ul-Mulk, late heir-apparent to Bahadur Shah, the last King of Delhi, receives a pension of Rs. 161 per mensem through his grandfather, Mirza Ilahi Baksh.

Khurshed Alam, also a son of Mirza Fateh-ul-Mulk, receives a pension of Rs. 50 per mensem from Government and of Rs. 200 per mensem from the Nizam's Government.



THE KARNAL DISTRICT.

The interesting sketch which follows, of the modern history of Karnal, is from the pen of the late Sir Denzil Ibbetson, at one time Settlement Officer of that District :—

Towards the end of the seventeenth century the Delhi Empire was fast falling to decay, and the Sikhs rising to power. In 1709 Bunda, some time the chosen disciple of Guru Gobind Bairagi, raised his standard in these parts, and collecting an army of Sikhs, occupied the whole of the country west of the Jumna. He laid the whole neighbourhood waste, and especially the neighbourhood of Karnal, where he killed the Faujdar and massacred the inhabitants.

In 1738 Nadir Shah, enraged at not being recognised by the Delhi Court, invaded India. On 8th January, 1739, he reached Sirhind, where he learned that Muhammad Shah with an enormous army occupied a strongly fortified camp at Karnal. He marched on to Taraori, on which he had to turn his guns before it would open its gates to him. Here he learned from some prisoners that the approach to Karnal from the direction of Taraori was through dense jungle and exceedingly difficult; and that Muhammad Shah had no room to move in, being encamped in a small plain which was hardly sufficient for his camp, and surrounded on three sides by thick woods. He accordingly resolved to take the enemy in flank from the south-east. On the 15th January he left Taraori, and, marching round by the banks of the Jumna to the back of the city, advanced to a position close to the Delhi camp. Meanwhile he sent Prince Nisar-ullah Mirza with a considerable force to a spot north of the canal and close to Karnal. All this time Muhammad Shah was not even aware that Nadir Shah was in the neighbourhood. Just at this time a detachment which had been sent to oppose Saadat Khan, Viceroy of Oudh, who was marching from Panipat with reinforcements, came to close quarters with him. Nadir Shah and Prince Nisar-ullah at once marched to the support of their detachment, which was the first intimation the Imperial army had of their presence. The engagement which followed was not decisive. But the army of Muhammad Shah, which had already been encamped for three months at Karnal and had suffered greatly from want of supplies, was now cut off from the open country in the rear, and food became so scarce that a seer of flour could not be bought for four rupees. Thus Muhammad Shah was starved into submission, and on the 13th of February yielded to the invader, who led him in his train to Delhi. In 1748 Ahmad Shah was met at Panipat by the royal paraphernalia and the news of the death of Muhammad Shah, and there and then formally assumed the royal titles.

From this time to the establishment of English Rule, a time of horror followed, which is still vividly remembered by the people, and was fittingly ushered in by the greatest of all the battles of Panipat. In the rainy season of 1760, Sadasheo, the Mahratta Bhao, marched upon Kunjpura, an Afghan town close to Karnal, which was then strongly fortified and at which 20,000 Afghan troops were then encamped. He put the whole of them to the sword, and pillaged the country round. Ahmad Shah, who was in the Doab, was unable to cross the Jumna in time to prevent this disaster; but at length he forded the river near Bagpat and



advanced against the enemy, who retreated to Panipat. There the Mahrattas strongly fortified themselves. The Duranis encamped close in front of them, and for five months the two armies, numbering more than 400,000 souls remained engaged in fruitless negotiation and constant skirmishes. The Durani army had free access to their camp on all sides, while they gradually confined the Mahrattas more and more to their entrenchments. The latter had long ago consumed all the provisions obtainable at Panipat; at length supplies wholly failed; and on the 6th January 1761, the Bhao advanced to action. The Mahrattas were utterly routed, and many of them were driven into the town of Panipat, whence next morning the conqueror brought them out, distributed the women and children, and massacred the men in cold blood. The fugitives were followed all over the country, and killed wherever they were overtaken. It is said that 200,000 Mahrattas were slain in this battle.

No sooner had the Mahrattas temporarily disappeared than the Sikhs appeared on the scene. In 1763 they defeated Zain Khan, the Durani Governor of Sirhind, and took possession of the whole of Sirhind as far south as Panipat. Raja Gopal Singh on this occasion seized Jind, Safidon, Panipat and Karnal, though he was not yet strong enough to hold them; but in 1772 he was confirmed in his possessions up to within a few miles north of Panipat and west of Karnal, as a tributary of the Delhi Emperor. At the same time Raja Gurdit Singh seized Ladwa and Shamgarn up to within a few miles north of Karnal.

Recalled by these events, Ahmad Shah once more appeared for the last time in Hindustan in 1767, and, conquering the Sikhs in several battles, marched as far as Panipat; but as soon as he disappeared the Sikhs again resumed their hold of the country. In 1774 Rahim Dad Khan, Governor of Hansi, attacked Jind; but was defeated with heavy loss, while Gajpat Singh again seized Karnal. In 1777 Najaf Khan, the Imperial Wazir, marched in person to restore his authority. The Sikhs invited the aid of Zabita Khan, a Rohela Chief, who had rebelled; and, joining their force with him, encountered the Imperial army at Panipat, and fought a battle said to have been only less terrible than that of 1761. No marked advantage remained with either side; and by a treaty then concluded between the Rajas and the Emperor, the Sikhs relinquished their conquests in Karnal and its neighbourhood, excepting seven villages which Gajpat Singh was allowed to keep. But the treaty was not observed; and in 1779 a last attempt was made by the Delhi Court to recover its lost territory. In November of that year Prince Parkhunda Bakht and Nawab Majid-ud-daula marched out at the head of a large army, 20,000 strong, and met some of the minor Sikhs at Karnal. He made terms with these chieftains, who were jealous of the growing power of Patiala; and the combined forces marched upon that State. While negotiations were in progress, reinforcements advanced from Lahore, the Karnal contingent deserted, bribery was resorted to, and the Imperialists retired precipitately to Panipat. About this time Dharam Rao held the greater part of the tract on the part of the Mahrattas, and was temporarily on good terms with the petty Sikh Chiefs north of Karnal. In 1785 he marched, at the invitation of the Phulkian Chiefs, against Kaithal and Ambala; and after some successes, and after exacting the stipulated tribute, withdrew to his head-quarters at Karnal. In 1789 Scindia marched from Delhi to Thanesar and thence to Patiala, restored order more or less in the country west of the Jumna, and brought the Patiala Diwan back with him as far as Karnal as a hostage. In 1794 a large Mahratta force under Anta Rao crossed the Jumna. Jind and Kaithal tendered their homage; but the Patiala troops surprised the army in a night attack, and Anta Rao retired to Karnal. In 1795 the Mahrattas once again marched north, and defeating Raja Bhag Singh at Karnal, finally wrested that city from him and made it over to George Thomas, who took



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part in the fight. He had, however, obtained the *jagir* of Jhajjar, and making himself master of Hissar, harried the neighbouring Sikh territories; meanwhile Raja Gurdit Singh, of Ladwa, obtained possession of Karnal. In 1798 Begum Samru was stationed with her forces at Panipat to protect the western frontier during the struggle with Jaipur. In 1799 Scindia sent General Perron, to whom the *pargana* of Panipat had been granted, to bring the Sikhs to order. He recruited at Karnal, where the Nawab of Kunjpura joined him; but matters were settled amicably. In 1801 Thomas made a foray through Karnal and Panipat, and then retreated to Hansi. The Sikhs asked the Mahrattas for help against him; and Scindia on the Sikhs promising to become his subsidiaries and pay him five lakhs of rupees, sent General Perron against him. In the battle that followed Thomas lost all his conquests, retired to British territory, and shortly afterwards died. Safidon and Dhatrat were then made over again to Jind by the Mahrattas.

On the 11th September, 1803, Lord Lake defeated the Mahrattas at the battle of Delhi; and on the 30th December, Daulat Rao Scindia, by the treaty of Sirji Anjangam, ceded his territories in the north of India to the allies; while the Partition Treaty of Poona, dated five months later, gave the provinces about Delhi from that time known as the conquered provinces, to the English. Immediately after the battle of Delhi Begum Samru made her submission to General Lake; and the Rajas of Jind and Kaithal were hardly less prompt. Their advances were favourably received; and in January 1805 they joined their forces with ours. The other Sikh Chiefs, including Ladwa and Thanesar, had actually fought against us at Delhi, and for a whole year they constantly displayed active hostility, till they were finally routed by Colonel Burn at the end of 1804. In March 1805, an amnesty was proclaimed to all the Sikhs on condition of peaceable behaviour; but Raja Gurdit Singh of Ladwa was expressly excluded from this amnesty, and in April of the same year the English forces marched upon his fort of Karnal and captured it.

Meanwhile Lord Wellesley had returned to England, and Lord Cornwallis had been sent out expressly to reverse his policy. The leading feature of the new programme was the withdrawal from all the recently acquired territory west of the Jumna. And as that territory had to be disposed of, it was natural that the petty chieftains who had done us service in the late struggle even, if only by abstaining from or relinquishing opposition to us, should be rewarded. The whole tract was therefore parcelled out between them and others.

The sovereign powers of the Rajas of Jind, Kaithal, Ladwa, Thanesar and Shamgarh, and of the Nawab of Kunjpura, were confirmed; and they were continued in the lands held by them under treaty from the Mahrattas, except that Ladwa was deprived of Karnal as already mentioned. The Jind Raja was granted the *pargana* of Gohana, and he and the Raja of Kaithal had the *pargana* Barsat-Faridpur made over to them jointly. Eight villages were made over to the Nawab of Kunjpura. The Mandals, who held large *jagirs* in Muzaffarnagar, were induced to exchange them for so much of *pargana* Karnal as was left unallotted.

Begum Samru received considerable grants, including some villages of the tract, in addition to her original fief of Sardhana; and considerable grants were made to people who had done good service, and notably to Mirza Ashraf Beg and Mir Rustam Ali.

The policy which bade us abstain from interference west of the Jumna did not long stand the test of actual practice. In 1806 Ranjit Singh crossed the Sutlej with his army and marched to Thanesar; and it soon became apparent that either he or we must be master in the tract. The events and negotiations that followed, how the Sikh army marched about

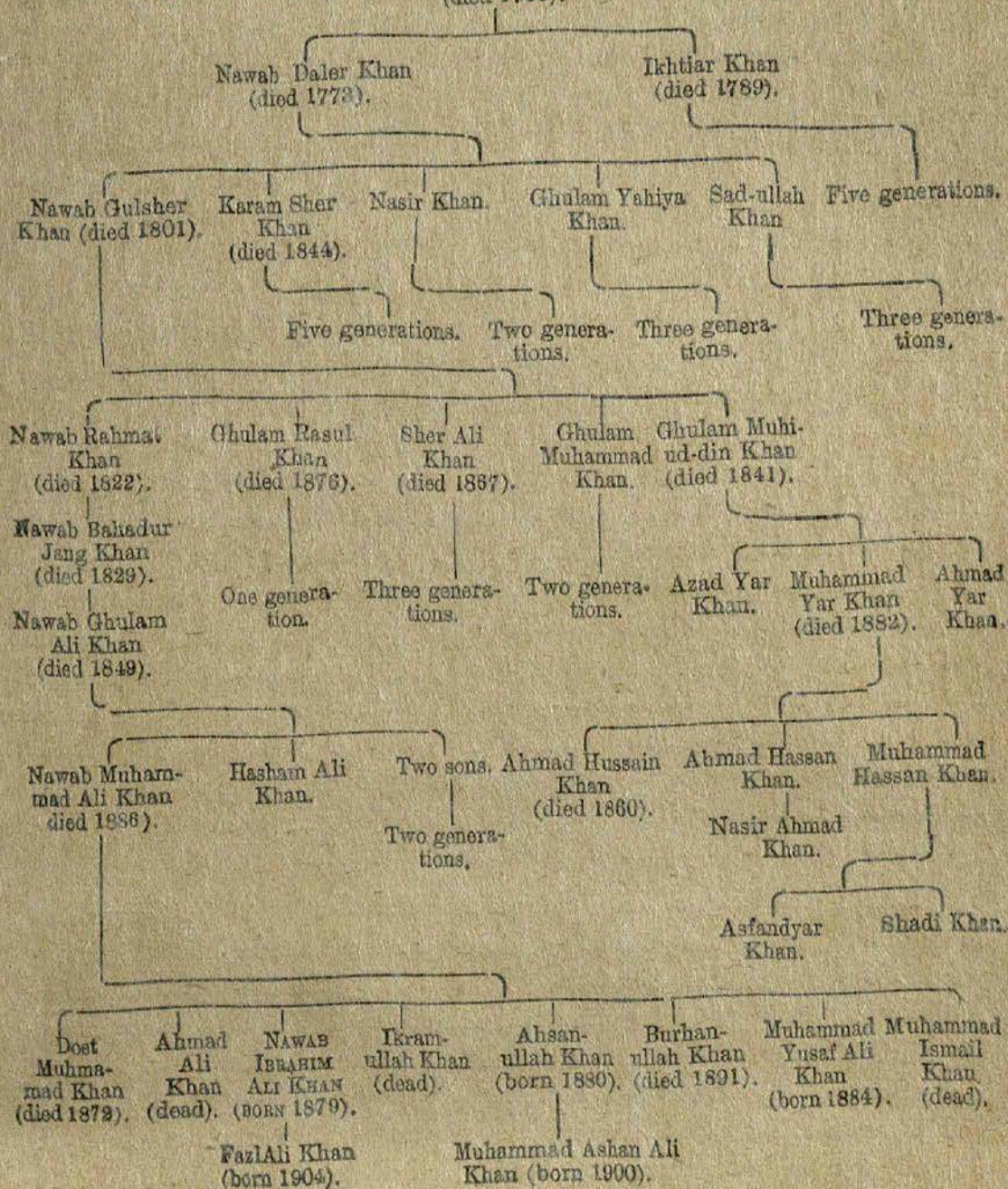


within twenty miles of our lines at Karnal, and how we were compelled to insist upon Ranjit Singh's withdrawal beyond the Sutlej, are told in most interesting detail by Sir Lepel Griffin in his *Punjab Rajas*. The Treaty of Lahore, dated 25th April, 1809, and the Proclamation of the 3rd of May following, finally included the country to the west of the Jumna in our Indian Empire; and with this event ended the political history proper of the Tract.

It will be useful to note the dates of a few events subsequent to the treaty of 1809. About 1810 the *jagir* grants which had been made in 1805-06 were declared grants for life only, and were taken under our police supervision. They were gradually resumed on the death of the holders. Bhai Lal Singh died in 1816, and Raja Bhag Singh in 1819; and these two, with the Mandals, held the greater portion of the Tract. *Pargana* Karnal was continued to the Mandals in perpetuity on a fixed quit-rent in 1806. In 1834 part of Jind and in 1843 the whole of Kaithal, lapsed to us on the failure of the reigning line. In the latter year parts of Safidon and Asandh were acquired from Jind by exchange. In 1845 we confiscated the Ladwa estates bordering on the tract as a punishment for treason in the Sikh War. And in the same year the Sardars of Thanesar, Kunjpura and Shamgarh were deprived of sovereign power, and reduced to the position of simple *jagirdars*. In 1850 the whole of Thanesar lapsed on the death of the widow of Fateh Singh, the last Chief of Thanesar.



NAWAB IBRAHIM ALI KHAN OF KUNJPURA.

NAWAB NAJABAT KHAN
(died 1760).



The Kunjpurias are amongst the best known of the Muhammadan families in the Delhi Division. The head of the house enjoys the title of Nawab, and their jurisdiction as semi-independent Chiefs was only lost to them under the operation of Lord Hardinge's order, dated 17th November 1846, affecting all but nine of the petty rulers in the plains south and east of the Sutlej. They are Rohilas of Yusufzai origin, and class themselves with other Pathans settled in the Panipat Tahsil as Zakka Khels, though their identity with any existing tribe on the Peshawar Frontier has long since been lost. They marry amongst themselves, and all their social observances assimilate with those of their Pathan neighbours, classed generally as "Hindustanis." Yet it may be mentioned, as tending to prove the undoubted Trans-Indus connection at some remote period and as showing the desire of the Kunjpurias to be esteemed as genuine Yusufzais, that even to the present day they are visited at uncertain intervals by men of the clan from Attock and Peshawar, whom they receive with honour as "cousins," and who, no doubt, find the occasional pilgrimage to Karnal one of profit as well as of pleasure. The Kunjpurias are credited in the earlier Government records as having come from "Gurgusht in the Sind country." By Sind is probably intended in this case the country of the Upper Indus, for the large village of Gurgushti in the Attock District is close to the Indus or Sind River, in the Chach plain north-east of Attock; and the Pathans of Gurgushti are especially given to claiming kinship with the Kunjpura Chiefs. Thus in 1886, on the death of the late Nawab Muhammad Ali Khan, a Gurgushti deputation duly appeared at Karnal to offer condolences, and to take back with them the presents such attention was bound to secure. But here the connection always ends, and there are no modern instances of Kunjpurias having secured Gurgushtian ladies as brides. The border Pathans would probably smile were such a request preferred by their brethren of the Lower Punjab.

Nothing certain is known regarding the settling of the Gurgushtis in India. They were classed as Rohila Pathans, and received employment about the Delhi Court in the early days of the Muhammadan conquests. But they were of small account until one of their number, Najabat Khan, founded the fortunes of the family by his own pluck and energy. He flourished in the early part of the eighteenth century, and after serving as a Captain in the Imperial Forces, secured for himself a considerable tract of fertile land along an arm of the Jumna



as it then flowed in a channel, now dry, known as the Puran, in the present Pipli Tahsil of the Karnal District. He plundered the Bazidpur villages in the Bidauli Pargana of Saharanpur, and built for himself in the Jumna marshes a strong tower which he named Kunjpura, or the Heron's Nest. His sons re-named it Najabat Nagar in his honour; but their children have ever since been known as Kunjpurias. Najabat Khan was not allowed peaceful possession of his acquisitions. The old Bazidpur owners complained to Izat Khan, the Chakladar of Saharanpur, who advanced against the freebooter with such forces as he had at his command; but Najabat held his own and slew the Imperial agent. This was more than even the effete Muhammadan Government of that day could stand. Mul Raj, Governor of Panipat, was ordered to seize the person of the rebel and produce him before the Emperor at Delhi. But he was released in a few years, after the manner of the age, upon promise of paying a fine, which was never redeemed.

Najabat Khan sided with Nadir Shah in his conquest of Delhi in 1739, and was recognised by the new power as rightful owner of the Kunjpura lands. Kunjpura itself was regarded as a post of strategical importance, covering the Begi Ferry on the road from Saharanpur to Delhi, and commanding the Imperial bridge over the canal between Karnal and the fortified *sarai* at Gharaunda, in the direction of Panipat. It was the scene of many a struggle between the Imperialists and the Mahrattas in the middle of the eighteenth century. In one of these castles, in 1760, Najabat Khan met with his death, defending the stronghold in the interests of the Abdalis against a sudden attack made by the Mahratta General, Sada Sheo, who put the garrison to the sword and levelled the place with the ground, burning most of the villages in the neighbourhood. Najabat's eldest son, Daler Khan, succeeded in escaping across the Jumna, and had his revenge in the following year by taking part in the battle of Panipat, when the Mahrattas suffered a crushing defeat at the hands of the Duranis.

Daler Khan's assistance to the Duranis was evidently of considerable value, for the family possess sanads bearing the seal of Ahmad Shah, reciting his services and those of his father to "this God-given Government," and confirming him in the rule and revenues of Kunjpura, Indri and Azimabad. The grant extended over 150 villages in the modern divisions of Karnal, Indri, Thanesar, Shah-



abad and Badauli. The Chief was bound to render active assistance in times of trouble, and he was made to keep up a large force of horse and foot for the Imperial services. The *mahals* of Karnal and Sadlon were afterwards bestowed in lieu of certain other villages resumed. Upon Daler Khan personally was conferred about this period the title of Bakhshi and Arjamand. But he lost much of his property shortly before his death in 1773, owing to the incursions of Raja Gajpat Singh of Jind and the other Sikh Chiefs, who were now busily feeling their way towards Delhi. His successor, Gulsher Khan, was unable to resist this forward movement, and gradually lost what remained of the family estates west of the Jumna. But the fortunes of the Kunjpurias revived about the year 1787, when Scindia checked the growing power of Patiala and expelled the Jind Raja, Bhag Singh, from Karnal. Ten years later we find Gulsher recognised by General Perron as Nawab of Kunjpura for help rendered in chastising George Thomas and the Jind and Ladwa Chiefs, whose successful adventures had begun to awaken the fears of the Mahrattas for the safety of their north-western border. Thus Rahmat Khan, who succeeded his father Gulsher as Nawab in 1801, was a personage of importance, whose alliance Lord Lake was glad to secure when gathering strength early in the century to crush Holkar and the combination of Sikh States headed by the Ladwa Chief. His son, Bahadur Jang Khan, was awarded a *jagir* on life tenure in seven villages of the Karnal Pargana under a *farman* signed by Lord Lake in 1806, afterwards confirmed by a *sarad* of Lord Minto, Governor-General. We find by a return prepared in 1809 that the Kunjpura Chief Rahmat Khan with his brother Ghulam Muhi-ud-din Khan and their uncle Karam Sher Khan were then possessed of 120 villages in the *parganas* of Karnal, Indri and Badauli, yielding a revenue of nearly Rs. 90,000. Their holdings were subject to the condition of furnishing a contingent of 20 horse and 600 foot. Rahmat Khan's estates in the Indri-Thanesar tract, yielding Rs. 72,000 per annum, were, under the Governor-General's Proclamation, dated 22nd August 1811, confirmed to him as an independent and protected Chief. His son's *jagir* was situated in the Delhi territory, and was valued at Rs. 2,900 per annum. The Saharanpur lands were held on *zamindari* tenure. By an *Itillanama* issued in 1809 the Kunjpura Chiefs were estopped from levying tolls and customs duties upon goods crossing the Jumna in the neighbourhood of their estates. This curtailment of their privileges



appears to have been the subject of a remonstrance on the part of the Nawabs, for various sums were paid to them from year to year after 1813 by way of compensation for loss of revenue; and they continued to levy *chungi* upon articles consumed within the limits of the estate until 1843, when it was abolished under an order of Sir Henry Lawrence, then Assistant to the Governor-General's Agent. Since 1852 the Nawabs have been allowed a fixed sum of Rs. 3,210 annually in lieu of all claims to tolls and customs dues of every description. As already mentioned, the Nawabs lost their independent status in 1846; and three years later Lord Hardinge's action was confirmed by Lord Dalhousie, who, under a Proclamation of June 1849, declared that, with the exception of nine States specified, "all the Chiefs would cease to hold sovereign powers, would lose all civil, criminal and fiscal jurisdictions, and would be considered as no more than ordinary subjects of the British Government in possession of certain exceptional privileges." Henceforth the Nawabs of Kunjpura were mere *jagirdars*, occasionally exercising judicial powers specially conferred.

Much of the legitimate power and influence which this family might reasonably have exercised had been lost by the unhappy relations of different members who have quarrelled with each other, and especially with the head of the house, for their own individual objects.

As far back as 1806 the differences between Rahmat Khan and his brother Ghulam Muhi-ud-din, regarding the succession to the patrimony, terminated in an open rupture. Their armed retainers came to blows, and antiquated pieces of cannon were used by the combatants within hearing of the cantonment of Karnal. The Kunjpura people were described in an official report of those days as "turbulent and unruly beyond any other race in India, given to habits of aggression, violence and contempt of all order and authority." The aim of the younger brother, Ghulam Muhi-ud-din, was to dismember the inheritance on the strength of an alleged custom, under which the sons of the Chief by his first wife were said to have the right to share the patrimony between them. Being unable to prove this allegation, he repeated his demand in another form, requiring the assignment of a number of villages, equal almost to one-half of the estate, for his separate maintenance. After much squabbling and not a little bloodshed the parties referred their quarrel to arbitration, and formally agreed to abide by the finding



in presence of Mr. Metcalfe, Agent, and his Assistant Mr. W. Fraser. Hereunder certain villages were assigned to Ghulam Muhi-ud-din for the purpose of providing him with a proper maintenance, and not with the object of giving him a separate share or splitting up his father's property. The grantee was in 1822 held free from liability to contribute towards the support of his younger brother, whose maintenance became a charge upon the possessions of the Nawab. In reporting this decision the position of Ghulam Muhi-ud-din was explained by Sir C. T. Metcalfe in the following terms:—"Had the question then been as to the right of Ghulam Muhi-ud-din to a portion as one of several younger brothers, he must, I conceive, have received a smaller provision than he obtained. But that was not the question, nor was the matter settled on any ground of right. The adjustment was simply an agreement between the parties, both yielding to the opinions of the arbitrators. Ghulam Muhi-ud-din Khan was more in the character of a rival than of a younger brother. His pretensions arose out of circumstances antecedent to our rule. We had strictly refrained from interference in the affairs of the petty States on our frontier. The two brothers were at war, and if the scene of action had not been within a few miles, or perhaps within sight, of one of our cantonments, they would have been left to fight it out, and would probably have destroyed each other, or would have fallen under the domination of some superior State. The arrangement concluded between them was considered by me more as a treaty of peace between contending parties than as a legal settlement of mutual rights."

Nawab Rahmat Khan died in 1822, and was followed by his son Bahadur Jang, who held the estate for six years. On his death the life-jagir in Pargana Karnal lapsed to Government under the terms of the Sanad of 1806. He was succeeded in default of male issue by his next brother Ghulam Ali Khan, who was duly recognised by the Governor-General as "rightful successor to the principality of Kunjpura." Ghulam Ali's younger brothers lost no time in following their uncle's example, and in 1834 one of them, Shahbaz Khan, put forward a claim to ownership in one-third of the estate. This was rejected by Sir George Clerk, Political Agent at Ambala, who, in reporting the case to the Governor-General's Agent at Delhi, remarked:—"If the Kunjpura lands are to be regarded as private property, no time should be lost in subjecting this inheritance to the rules of *Shara*. But if it be deemed expedient to maintain the Chief in respectability and authority, the pro-



vision of *guzara* for his brother should be left in a measure to the Nawab's discretion." Sir Charles Metcalfe in reply (dated 12th December 1836) laid down on the authority of the Lieutenant-Governor, North-Western Provinces, that "Kunjpora must be regarded as a principality, and the younger branches must depend upon the older for support; the amount of this provision being regulated by the custom of the family."

On the death of Ghulam Muhi-ud-din in 1841 his assigned villages reverted to Nawab Ghulam Ali Khan, with the exception of the one village of Biana and the lands of seven wells in Kunjpura, which were apportioned for the maintenance of Muhammad Yar Khan, son of Ghulam Muhi-ud-din.

In 1843 the Nawab had an opportunity of proving his loyalty by furnishing a party of 50 sowars to assist in suppressing the disturbances at Kaithal, described in another chapter, brought about by the decision of Government to treat the estate as an escheat on the death without issue of Bhai Udai Singh. The men remained at the disposition of Sir Henry Lawrence for two months, and their services were duly acknowledged in a letter of thanks to the Nawab. He was again forward in assisting during the First Sikh War with carriage and supplies.

Nawab Ghulam Ali Khan died in 1849, and was succeeded by his son Muhammad Ali Khan. His latter years had been embittered by violent family quarrels, instigated by Ghulam Muhi-ud-din's son Muhammad Yar Khan of Biana. These unfortunate dissensions, adverse to the best interests of the family, brought the estate to the verge of ruin, and paralyzed all attempts at vigorous action during the crisis of 1849, when a display of active loyalty would have for ever secured the Kunjpurias a high place in the esteem of the Paramount Power. Nawab Muhammad Ali Khan was only 20 years of age when his father died. He was beset with troubles from the commencement, due to the active opposition and underhand intrigues of his uncles, Shahbaz Khan and Janbaz, who were leagued with their cousin, Muhammad Yar Khan of Biana, to bring the head of the house to ruin, and thus secure a partition of the property amongst all the cousins. They accused the Nawab, through his step-mother, of having poisoned his elder brother in order to secure his own succession. But the charge was declared after investigation to be unfounded.

His next trouble was concerning the succession to the estate of his cousin, Tafazzul Hussain, who died in 1851, and whose grandfather,



Karam Sher Khan, had been assigned lands for his maintenance in Ghir and portions of Kunjpura Proper. These duly passed to Tafazzul Hussain, and his widow now set up Barkat Ali, the son of a slave girl, as his rightful successor. The decision of Government was in favour of direct heirs of Karam Sher Khan, excluding illegitimate offspring. With regard to the Nawab, it was held that his rights were only reversionary on the failure of all Karam Sher's immediate heirs.

Meanwhile the Biana branch had not been idle. Muhammad Yar Khan continued to press his suit, reducing the demand to one-fourth of the whole estate; but this was finally rejected, in 1851, by the Commissioner of Ambala. A fight next took place over the Nawab's reversionary rights in Muhammad Yar's Biana holdings, which dragged through the courts for many years. The Financial Commissioner ruled, in 1857, that Muhammad Yar was merely a life-tenant, as his father Ghulam Muhi-ud-din had never been acknowledged owner of a separate estate.

In 1857 Nawab Muhammad Ali Khan responded to the call of the Commissioner and placed the whole of his horse and footmen at the disposal of Government. They were stationed at Thanesar, and assisted in preserving order and in supporting the executive authority. The Nawab's service commutation payment was remitted for one year, and the demand was permanently reduced by one-half. The family quarrels, which had been allowed to pend during the Mutiny, broke out afresh in 1859. Amongst other enormities the Nawab was charged with attempting to assassinate one of his kinsmen. This accusation of course fell to the ground. He was next reported as being in league with the Wahabis of Satana. The matter was enquired into, and the result was communicated to the Nawab in a letter from Government to the Commissioner, in which the following paragraph is deserving of record:—"The Lieutenant-Governor requests you will inform the Nawab that in the opinion of the Government, so far from the accusations made by informers having brought any discredit on him, the enquiries made have resulted highly to his honour as tending to show that, although efforts were made to implicate him by sending the messenger of the fanatics to him on the ostensible plea of obtaining charity from him, these efforts proved wholly unsuccessful."

Nawab Muhammad Ali Khan's life was spent to the last in defending himself against a series of wholly groundless attacks made by his numerous



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relatives. It will serve no purpose to describe them here, and a mere list of the disputes would be of no value to those who have access to the fuller records of the public offices. But in the course of these disputes, settled either judicially or by interference of the executive, certain matters were decided which deserve a short notice. The sons of Sher Ali Khan, granduncle of the Nawab, were, in 1875, awarded a joint maintenance of Rs. 666 per annum by the Nawab, voluntarily at the suggestion of the Commissioner of Delhi. Next Faiz Muhammad Khan, son of the Nawab's granduncle Ghulam Rasul, who died in 1876, claimed to retain three wells in Kunjpura and an annuity of Rs. 167 as his hereditary right. The case dragged on until 1884, when Sir Charles Aitchison consented to act as arbitrator. His Honour found that as Faiz Muhammad Khan refused compliance with the conditions as to service and obedience to the Nawab, which are usual in the family on the part of those who receive maintenance, he was not entitled to the same amount as had been granted to others in the same degree of relationship, and that Rs. 298-7-0 a year was a proper sum for his maintenance.

A third dispute arose after the death of Muhammad Yar Khan in 1882 on the application of his son Ahmad Hassan to be recorded as *Jagirdar* of Biana and owner of sundry plots in that estate and in Kunjpura. He gained his suit in so far as he was permitted to retain possession of the so-called fort in Biana with a few acres of land in the neighbourhood, but the assigned revenue was declared to have reverted to the Nawab. In addition the Nawab's estate has been charged with a life provision of Rs. 1,200 per annum for the support of his cousin Ahmad Hassan. Finally, Nazar Muhammad, son of the Nawab's uncle Janbaz Khan, put in a claim for continuance to him of his deceased father's maintenance allowance of Rs. 1,200 per annum. The decision of the Lieutenant-Governor was communicated in a letter to the Commissioner of Dehli, dated the 2nd July 1888, in which His Honour recorded his opinion that, according to precedents, "the allowance granted to the son of a Nawab of Kunjpura is reducible when he dies, unless there is some special agreement or order of Government or of the courts to the contrary in any particular case." The claimant was accordingly awarded a life allowance of Rs. 900 per annum, subject to deduction of commutation and income tax, and to acquiescence in certain



conditions which may be summarized as follows :—That the grantee bring no suit against the Nawab, nor attempt to alienate or pledge his allowances, and that he acknowledge the grant as strictly limited for the period of his own lifetime, his heirs having no claim whatever upon the estate.

Nawab Muhammad Ali Khan died in 1886. His name stood third on the list of Provincial Darbaris in the Delhi Division. He had exercised powers as a Magistrate and Civil Judge since 1860 within the limits of his estate. The present Nawab, Ibrahim Ali Khan, his eldest surviving son, was educated at the Aitchison College, and the estate was managed by the Court of Wards during his minority. He has succeeded to his father's seat in Provincial Darbars. The late Nawab had arranged for the maintenance of his younger sons by assigning them certain lands acquired for this purpose some time before his death, but the only two of them who are still alive, Ahsan-ullah Khan and Muhammad Yusaf Ali Khan, lately brought a suit against their half brother, the present Nawab, for a four-fifth share in all the *jagir* and other property left by their father, Nawab Muhammad Ali Khan. The Chief Court has decreed the claim with regard to all property acquired by the late Nawab after 1849. Nawab Ibrahim Ali Khan has now decided to take the case up to the Privy Council.

The Kunjpura estate consists of *jagir* and revenue-paying lands near Indri in the Karnal district and in the districts of Muzaffarnagar and Saharanpur, as well as of numerous houses in Karnal, Kunjpura, Indri and Taraori. At the last-named place the Nawab is owner of the ancient Imperial *Sarai*, a building of considerable architectural interest. The land revenue assignments after deducting one-sixteenth as service commutation are assessed at about Rs. 32,000 per annum, derived from 38 villages, mainly in the Khadar portion of the Indri *Pargana*. In some of these villages the revenue is shared with Sikh *Jagirdars*. In Taraori, for instance, the Sardar of Shamgarh takes two-fifths of the demand. The proprietary holdings comprise 12 entire villages and portions of 46 villages. These yield a rental of Rs. 23,130 annually while about Rs. 14,000 are received in the form of house-rent, garden income and miscellaneous revenue.

Further mention may be made of the Ghir Branch, now represented by Ahmad Hassan Khan, grandnephew of Ghulam Nabi, the eldest son of Karam Sher Khan, and his nephews Hamid Hussain Khan and Hamid



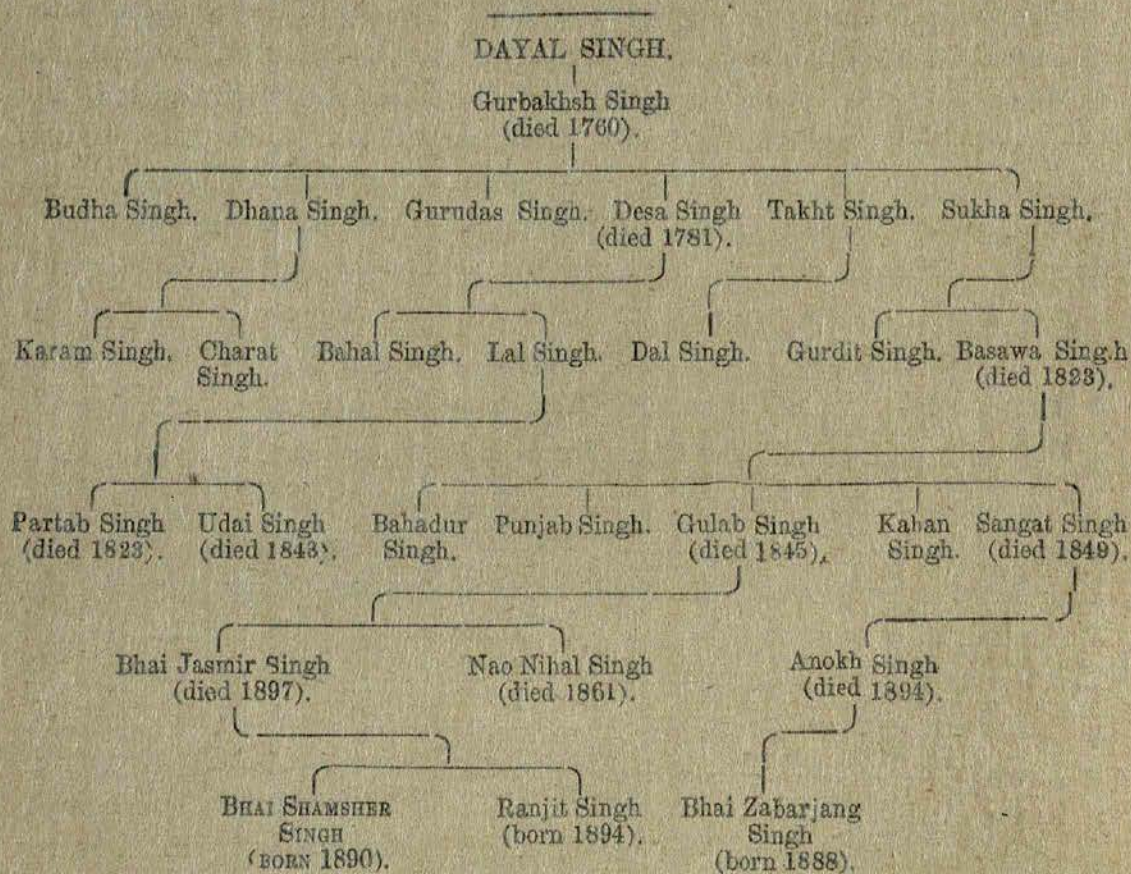
Hassan Khan. A portion of the Ghir lands had been held by Jamiat Singh of Thanesar. The remainder was so badly managed by Ghulam Nabi Khan that in 1837, on the complaint of the cultivators, his judicial powers were cancelled, and in 1860, in lieu of *jagir* rights, his nephews were awarded a cash allowance of Rs. 4,000 per annum. This is still paid from the district treasury to Hamid Hussain Khan and Hamid Hassan Khan, although they persist in styling themselves *Jagirdars*. The existing arrangement is distinctly to their benefit, inasmuch as the assessment of their old holding under the settlement is considerably less than the pension they are permitted to enjoy. Hamid Hussain Khan is a Divisional Darbari.

The branches of the Kunjpura family are so numerous and their members so scattered that it is a matter of difficulty to trace every individual. Many of Najabat Khan's descendants have disappeared for years past from the parent home, and have permanently severed their connection with the head of the house. Ghulam Muhammad Khan, son of Game Khan, quarrelled with the Chief, after the manner of his kinsmen, and settled at Panipat. His children have married there and acquired lands. The line of Ikhtiar Khan claims a distinguished representative in Ghulam Ahmad Khan of Gwalior, formerly a member of the Council of Regency and author of many Urdu works of great literary merit. His sons received their education at the Aligarh College, and one of them, Sultan Ahmad Khan, is now a Sessions Judge in the Gwalior State.

With two or three exceptions, no other member of the family appears to have attempted to make a career for himself, the system of splitting up allowances into equal shares having seemingly extinguished in the holders all natural desire to rise above the level of petty pensioners.



BHAIR SHAMSHER SINGH OF ARNAULI.



The Bhaies of Kaithal are an important family, whose past history is much interwoven with that of Patiala and the net-work of minor chiefships which was spread out between the Jumna and the Sutlej when Lord Lake first established himself at Delhi. They are of the same original stock as the Phulkians, going back to the celebrated Rajput Jaisal, whose appearance is a matter almost of obligation in the pedigree table of a respectable Malwai Jat. Dhar, son of Sidhu, was the immediate ancestor of the Kaithal family, as well as of the houses of Sadhwal, Jhumba and Arnauli. He settled at Bhatinda about the middle of the fourteenth century; and his son Manak Chand founded the existing village of Bhuler and acquired many others around Bhatinda. Manak's grandson Bhagtu was a disciple of Guru Arjun and was called *Bhai*, a title still used by the family, which has had a semi-religious status ever since the days of Bhagtu. The next man of note was Gurbakhsh Singh, who flourished in the time of the Patiala Raja Ala Singh and was his fast friend. He was a fine soldier, with very little of the saintly *Bhai* about him. He and Ala



Singh joined forces and went on many expeditions together, annexing villages on all sides and sharing the spoils. On the death of Gurbakhsh Singh in 1760, his possessions passed to his six sons, of whom Budha Singh, the eldest, became a great warrior, seizing the districts of Thanesar and Pihowah, and building himself a strong fort at Kahod, which he made his head-quarters. His brother, Bhai Desa Singh, captured Kaithal from the Afghan owners, Bikh Bakhsh and Niamat Khan, and he stripped the Sayads of their Pandri lands. The brothers were afterwards attacked by the celebrated Thanesar Sardar Bhanga Singh, the fiercest and most feared of all the Cis-Sutlej Chiefs of his time. Bhanga Singh made a sudden descent upon Thanesar, in which were two forts, held respectively by Budha Singh and by a Rajput Chief named Nathe Khan. The latter surrendered after a weak attempt at resistance; but the Bhais held out, and their stronghold was only won by a stratagem some years later. The Sadhwal Sardars were finally driven out of the Thanesar district in the time of Desa Singh's son Lal Singh. This latter Chief had been for some years on bad terms with his father, who had placed him in confinement, being anxious that the estates should pass to the elder brother Bahal Singh. But Lal Singh managed to get free, and after killing Bahal Singh secured the whole patrimony for himself. He proved the greatest of all the Sadhwal Chiefs, and was regarded as the most powerful of the Cis-Sutlej Sardars, after the Raja of Patiala, at the time of the British advance northwards in 1809. He is described as having been a very able man, though utterly untrustworthy, and so violent and unscrupulous that the English authorities had the greatest difficulty in persuading him to preserve order in his territories. He acquired immense tracts of country by plundering his neighbours on all sides, and he succeeded in regaining possession of much-coveted Thanesar after he had been kept out of possession for many years by his old enemy Bhanga Singh. He waited upon General Ochterlony and, having offered his assistance in the Gurkha War, was liberally treated, and was allowed to retain the *ilakas* of Ohausatha and Gohana, under condition of furnishing 500 sowars, for whose support eight additional villages were set apart. He joined the British in the pursuit of Jaswant Rao Holkar up to the Sutlej border, and received a sanad acknowledging his services in connection with the treaty made on that occasion with Maharaja Ranjit Singh. In 1819 he was allowed to



succeeded to the share of the family estate held by a childless widow of his cousin Karam Singh, which under the rules was justly an escheat to the Government. He had been a firm ally all his life of the Raja Bhag Singh of Jind, and on more than one occasion had come to his assistance in repelling the attacks of George Thomas, the celebrated Hansi adventurer.

Sardar Lal Singh's son, Udai Singh, was of very different calibre. He was a weak-minded youth, without ambition, and without the energy to keep what his father had acquired. During his Chiefship the disorder and affrays on the Kaithal frontier became so serious, stopping all trade and disturbing the peace of the whole country, that a strong remonstrance was addressed to him and the neighbouring Sardars, who were in a measure jointly responsible for the good government of the district. Things were in this state when Bhai Udai Singh died childless in 1843. The Chiefship, with territory yielding one lakh of rupees, representing the acquisitions of Gurbaksh Singh, the original founder of the family, was conferred upon Bhai Gulab Singh and Sangat Singh of Arnauli, collaterals of Udai Singh in the third generation. The remainder of the estate, including Kaithal, which had been acquired by Lal Singh and other members of the family following Bhai Gurbaksh Singh, valued at four lakhs per annum, fell as an escheat to the British Government. This lapse was highly distasteful to the Phulkian Chiefs, who, as relatives of the deceased, were naturally desirous of retaining the possessions in the family. They were also fearful that the precedent might at some future day be used against themselves; for at that time their dominions had not been guaranteed to them by sanads in the event of failure of heirs. The Rajas of Patiala, Jind and Nabha accordingly sent special agents to Kaithal for the purpose of protesting before Mr. Greathed, specially deputed to carry out the Government orders, against the alleged act of spoliation. They were, however, ultimately recalled, and nothing was left to the Kaithal Council but to submit to the Paramount Power. But knowing that they had with them the sympathies of the Sikh Chiefs, and instigated probably by secret intrigue, the people of Kaithal broke out into insurrection while the matter of taking possession was still pending, and the town and fort had to be captured at the point of the bayonet.

Bhai Jasmir Singh, son of Gulab Singh, and Bhai Anokh Singh, son of Sangat Singh, behaved loyally in the two Sikh Wars and again in



KARNAL DISTRICT.

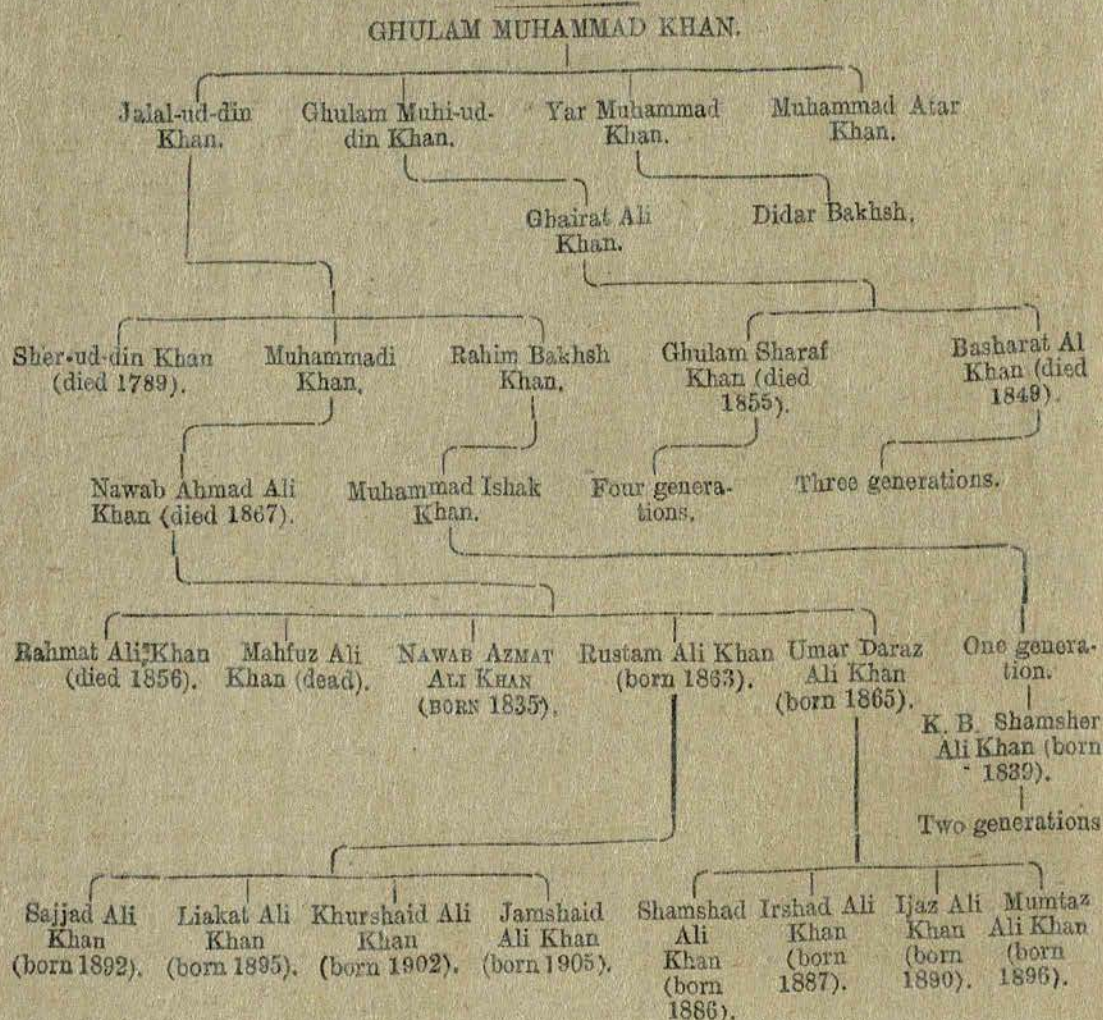
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the Mutiny of 1857. Bhai Anokh Singh in this latter crisis placed himself at the head of a body of horse and foot of his own raising, and helped to patrol the road between Ambala and Delhi. Jasmir Singh's services were also valuable. They were rewarded with the remission of one year's commutation charge, Rs. 3,577, on their estates; and the demand was reduced by one-half during the lifetime of the Bhais.

Bhai Jasmir Singh lived at Arnauli till his death in 1897, and Bhai Anokh Singh at Sadhowal till he died in 1894. Each exercised civil and criminal judicial powers within the limits of their estates. The former was a Provincial and the latter a Divisional Darbari. Bhai Jasmir Singh was succeeded by his eldest son Shamsber Singh and Bhai Anokh Singh by his son Zabarjang Singh. They are both being educated at the Aitchison College and their estates are under the management of the Court of Wards. Shamsber Singh's income from *jagir* and other property is about Rs. 50,000 and that of Zabarjang Singh about Rs. 42,000. The former's younger brother Ranjit Singh is also at the Aitchison College.



NAWAB AZMAT ALI KHAN, MANDAL



Nawab Bahadur Azmat Ali Khan, titular Nawab of Karnal, is the head of that section of the Mandals which was found by Lord Lake, in 1804, established on the eastern bank of the Jumna in certain tracts included in the modern districts of Meerut and Muzaffarnagar.

The Mandals of the Jumna Doab are described in the early British records as Pathans, and are usually so classed in official documents to the present day; but Sir Denzil Ibbetson, a high authority, considered that they are of Jat origin. They came, it is said, from the ancient town of Samana in Patiala, where several branches of the clan are still living; and the leading members still hold considerable grants from the Patiala Chiefs, under whom they have freely taken service. Samana was a place of importance in the fifteenth century, and its rulers appear for a time to



have asserted their independence of the Lodi Kings, and even to have held the southern country up to the walls of Panipat.

The traditions of the Kaithal border suggest that in the confusion which marked the close of the seventeenth century the Mandals, pressed by the Sikhs under Banda, their Bairagi leader, moved from Samana to the neighbourhood of Pihowah, on the Saraswati stream. The remains of one of their forts are still to be seen at Murtazapur, between Pihowah and Thanesar. From the Thanesar tract they appear to have been dislodged by the Sikh *misals*, and in 1805 we find them settled in the Saharanpur District, having for neighbour Raja Bhanga Singh of Thanesar. In 1804 the confederacy headed by the Rajas of Ladwa and Thanesar, which had continued to oppose the British forces in the field, was finally broken; and in March 1805 a conditional amnesty was proclaimed for all but the Ladwa Chief, followed by steps for transplanting to the right or western bank of the Jumna those troublesome bands whose presence in the Delhi Province was deemed undesirable on political grounds. The Mandals were included in the list for deportation on the recommendation of Lord Lake, who, in April 1806, reported that they had agreed to give up their *jaidad* lands in the Jumna Doab in exchange for the *pargana* of Karnal, which would be held by the present heads of the family in *jagir*, and by their descendants on *istamrari* tenure. The *jaidad* or military fief referred to was claimed under a grant which Sher-ud-din Khan, Mandal, obtained in 1779, from Farkhunda Bakht of Delhi, when that Prince vainly attempted to arouse the patriotism of the Muhammadan Chiefs of the Jumna Provinces in opposing the advancing Mahratta hordes. The sanad under which they hold is said to bear the seal of the Imperial Minister, Nawab Majid-ud-daula Abdul Ahad; but the title was regarded at the time as of doubtful value, and from Sir David Ochterlony's correspondence there appears to have been a desire to ignore it and hand over the Karnal *Pargana*, on the expulsion of the Ladwa force, to Raja Bhag Singh of Jind. The Mandals were, however, finally recognised as owners of the *parganas* of Muzaffarnagar, Shoran and Chitrawal, which on the death in 1789 of Sher-ud-din, the original grantee, were given to his brother Muhammadi Khan by Daulat Rao Scindia on condition of maintaining a body of 200 horsemen for military service. When the transfer was arranged by Lord Lake, the Mandals in possession were Muhammadi Khan, his nephew Muhammad Ishak Khan, and his cousin Ghairat Ali 3 Khan. The 6



villages thus assigned them in the Karnal Pargana were estimated to yield Rs. 48,000 per annum; and in order to induce them to accept the exchange the more readily, they were allowed to hold such portions of the *pargana* as had not already been given to other settlers. Muhammadi Khan was further allowed to retain a small *jagir* in Muzaffarnagar which had been assigned to him personally for services rendered. It was on the express application of the Mandals that Government accorded the additional privilege, by order dated 9th April 1806, of allowing the heirs of the three Chiefs to continue to hold on an *istamrari* tenure, subject "to payment of an annual rent of Rs. 15,000 of the current coin."

Violent quarrels broke out amongst the three assignees shortly after they had been put in possession of the grant; and this led in 1807 to a partition of the villages, under a deed attested by the Resident of Delhi according to the following estimated annual value:—

| | | | Rs. |
|----------------|-----|-----|--------|
| Muhammadi Khan | ... | ... | 15,000 |
| Ghairat Ali | ... | ... | 13,000 |
| Ishak Khan | ... | ... | 12,000 |

The city of Karnal and one or two other estates were still held jointly.

The Karnal Fort was taken from the Mandals in 1809 under Lord Lake's order; a compensation payment of Rs. 4,000 having been made for disturbance of possession. It was used for military purposes until the cantonment was abandoned, and it then passed under the civil control, and was assigned to the Department of Education for the accommodation of a school. In 1886 it again changed hands, and is now occupied as a *tehsil*.

In 1844 the Lieutenant-Governor of the North-Western Provinces marched through what was then known as the *Mandal Pargana*, and was so impressed with the state of disorder, arising out of the perpetual struggles between the owners and the cultivators, that he deputed Mr. Gubbins to effect a settlement, which was completed in 1847, and sanctioned for a period of five years. At the end of this term heavy arrears had accumulated, and Mr. J. G. Ross was appointed to revise the assessments. His final proposals were ready in 1856, but the events of the following year prevented the passing of orders, and soon afterwards the *pargana* became a portion of the Punjab. Mr. Ross's assessment was thus not sanctioned until 1860. The Government of the Punjab in accepting his settlement took occasion to record that the Mandals were



merely assignees of the revenue ; and their rights did not extend to the management of the land, except in those estates, 24 in number, in which they had acquired entire ownership.

The following note by the late Sir Denzil Ibbetson, formerly Settlement Officer, shows how the fortunes of the Mandals have fallen since their removal to Karnal in furtherance of the policy of Lord Cornwallis, which had for its object the delegation of our rights beyond the Jumna to a number of petty Chiefs who were to be entrusted with the keeping of the North-West border. However advantageous such a policy may have proved to the Paramount Power, it has evidently in no way bettered the position of Sher-ud-din's successors. " The constant and bitter disputes which have been rife among the Mandals ever since their first settlement in Karnal have had the effect which might have been expected upon their position as a family. Other causes, too, have contributed to their decay. As each generation increased the number of the family, the sons, all sharing in the inheritance of the father, not only were relieved from the necessity of earning their livelihood, but also felt it incumbent upon them to keep as far as possible the style which was traditional in the family on a reduced income which was quite insufficient for the purpose. Being almost without exception uneducated, they fell wholly into the hands of an unscrupulous band of rapacious stewards, who found their interest in introducing them to money-lenders as unscrupulous as themselves." The decadence of the family began early. In 1817 Sir Charles Metcalfe wrote :—

" They have suffered much since they were established in Karnal ; and the period of their transfer from the Doab was the commencement of the decline of their prosperity. Their respectability, in all external appearances, has been dwindling away before my eyes in the course of the last ten years. It may be said with justice that their decline is in some measure owing to their own mismanagement as they received an extensive district capable of great improvement. It must, however, be admitted that something unfavorable in the change must also have operated ; otherwise why did not their mismanagement ruin them in the Doab, where I remember meeting them in 1805, equipped in a style of considerable pomp and splendour ? Their present appearance is very different ; and their tone to me, since 1806, has invariably been that of complaint."

Of course the position of a *jagirdar* was, as pointed out by Mr. Fraser, very different under Native and British rule ; and this difference would



have been felt even if the Mandals had remained in the Doab. In point of mere income they benefited considerably, the revenue of the *pargana* in 1890 being Rs. 65,265, as against Rs. 25,000 (after deducting *nazarana*), when the estates were made over to the family in 1806.

The late head of the Mandal house, Nawab Ahmad Ali Khan, rendered loyal services in 1857, and these were duly acknowledged in a letter from Lord Canning to the Chief Commissioner of the Punjab in the following terms:—"His Lordship is of opinion that the liberality of Government in the acknowledgment of the Nawab's services should be as unstinted as his support and assistance have been unhesitating. The Nawab's services have been most valuable, as testified by all officers, both Civil and Military, who have had an opportunity of forming a judgment on the subject. From the first the Nawab openly and fearlessly espoused the cause of the British Government, and his acts have been throughout in accordance with his professions. He neither spared personal exertions nor withheld material aid, but freely placed all his establishments and all his resources at our disposal. Conduct such as this calls for marked recognition. The Governor-General, therefore, is pleased to direct that the quit-rent of Rs. 5,000 now paid by him be remitted to the Nawab and heirs male of his body lawfully begotten in perpetuity, and that a *khilat* of Rs. 10,000 be conferred upon him in as public and honourable a manner as possible. His Lordship also requests that you will deliver to the Nawab the accompanying sanad, acknowledging the conspicuous loyalty of his conduct and the value of the service performed by him in placing his resources at the disposal of the British Government." In 1860 Nawab Ahmad Ali Khan was appointed an Honorary Assistant Commissioner in the Karnal District, and he exercised revenue and magisterial powers up to the time of his decease. He died in 1867, and was succeeded by his son Nawab Azmat Ali Khan, the present head of the family. Besides the present Nawab there are two sons, Rustam Ali Khan and Umar Daraz Ali Khan, by a lady known as Lali Begam, who, in 1872, claimed a share for her children and herself in the property and emoluments of the late Nawab. It was then held by the Chief Court that there existed a custom excluding widows from inheritance, but that there was none excluding younger sons from inheritance, or reducing their share below that of their elder brothers. It was further held that sons of concubines legitimatised by acknowledgment, although the marriage of their mothers might not be proved, were entitled to inherit under the



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grants of 1806 and of 1858. Under orders of the Chief Court a Manager was appointed for receiving the share decreed to the half-brothers in the person of Kazi Ahmad Shah, a Sayad of Taraori, in the Karnal District, since deceased.

The *jagir* and private property of the Nawab in the Karnal District were divided by a quasi-official proceeding in 1884. The same partition dealt with the property held by him in proprietary right in the districts of Muzaffarnagar and Meerut, as well as sundry rights in lands and houses in Delhi. The income of the three brothers is understood to stand at present as follows:—

Nawab Azmat Ali Khan—

| | | | | | |
|---|-----|-----|-----|-----|------------------|
| <i>Jagir</i> in Karnal | ... | ... | ... | Rs. | 6,207 per annum. |
| <i>Jagir</i> in the North-Western Provinces | ... | ... | ... | " | 9,884 " |
| Proprietary rights in land | ... | ... | ... | " | 52,535 " |
| Rent from houses | ... | ... | ... | " | 9,504 " |

Rustam Ali Khan and Umar Daraz Ali Khan—

| | | | | | |
|---|-----|-----|-----|-----|-------------------|
| <i>Jagir</i> in Karnal | ... | ... | ... | Rs. | 12,379 per annum. |
| <i>Jagir</i> in the North-Western Provinces | ... | ... | ... | " | 3,000 " |
| Proprietary rights in land | ... | ... | ... | " | 1,54,994 " |
| Rent from houses | ... | ... | ... | " | 2,658 " |

In 1891 Nawab Azmat Ali Khan was granted the title of Nawab Bahadur, and both he and his half brothers, Rustam Ali Khan and Umar Daraz Ali Khan, are Provincial Darbaris, the last named being Honorary Magistrate.

The representative of Muhammad Ishak Khan is Shamsheer Ali Khan, born in 1839. His *jagir* holdings under the recent assessments yield Rs. 11,219 per annum. He is also owner of two entire villages and of portions of eight others worth about Rs. 10,600 per annum. He was elected Chairman of the Local Board of Karnal in 1885, and was nominated President of the Municipal Committee in 1884, being re-elected in 1889; but is now no longer a member of either the Board or the Committee, though still an Honorary Magistrate. He has on different occasions received official acknowledgment of services rendered in matters of local improvement, such as vaccination and education, and he was invested with a *khilat* in general recognition of his services at a Darbar held by His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor of the Punjab at Delhi in 1888. He is a Divisional Darbari, and in 1892 was granted the title of Khan Bahadur. Fateh Muhammad Khan, son of Mehr Ali Khan, was a Provincial Darbari.



On his death, without issue, his *jagir* devolved on his uncle Karam Ilahi Khan, who was a Provincial Darbari, and on Karam Ilahi Khan's death, shortly after, Shamsheer Ali Khan inherited both shares of the *jagir* valued at Rs. 4,779 per annum.

Another scion of the same branch as Shamsheer Ali Khan, Azam Ali Khan, succeeded his father Ghulam Rasul Khan in 1880, and enjoyed a *jagir* of Rs. 9,106 spread over 17 villages. He was reported to have no proprietary holdings. Ghulam Rasul Khan left heavy encumbrances on his estate, the bulk of which were notoriously based on very inadequate consideration. Azam Ali Khan contested his liability for these debts, and after litigation, which lasted for several years, a decision was given by the Chief Court of the Punjab in his favour. He died in 1903, and his son Zafar Hussain Khan, who is a Divisional Darbari, has inherited his father's *jagir* worth about Rs. 9,060.

The Chief Court's decision in the case brought by Azam Ali Khan to contest his liability for his father's debts is one of the deepest importance for the whole Mandal family ; and it has now been definitely settled—

- (i) that the Mandal grant is essentially a *jagir*, and that the term *istamrar* refers only to certain special incidents, notably the continuing character of the assignment and the condition of a fixed amount, by way of fee or quit-rent, payable to the State by the assignee ;
- (ii) that each descendant of the original grantees on succeeding to a share takes a fresh estate through, but not from, the preceding holder ; in other words, that each fresh sharer takes from the Crown and not from his immediate predecessor in the *jagir* ;
- (iii) that the power of sharers to deal with their holdings beyond the term of their proper lives depends strictly on the terms of the sanads of 1806, and not on those of any regulations which may have been in force in the Karnal *Pargana* in the year in question ;
- (iv) that a sharer in the *jagir* is not competent to create a valid charge thereon so as to encumber the income beyond the period of his individual lifetime.

Faiz Ali Khan, a descendant of Ghairat Ali Khan, who was a Divisional Darbari, is at the head of the third or youngest branch of the family. His *jagir* income is Rs. 5,275 per annum. He holds seven entire