



of his flight to Pondicherry, was holding the appointment of Assistant Commissioner in the Punjab. He entered the service of the Raja of Nahan in 1899 and is now a District Judge in that State. Narendra Singh resides with his father-in-law in the Meerut district, and Gurdit Singh at Manawala in Gujranwala.

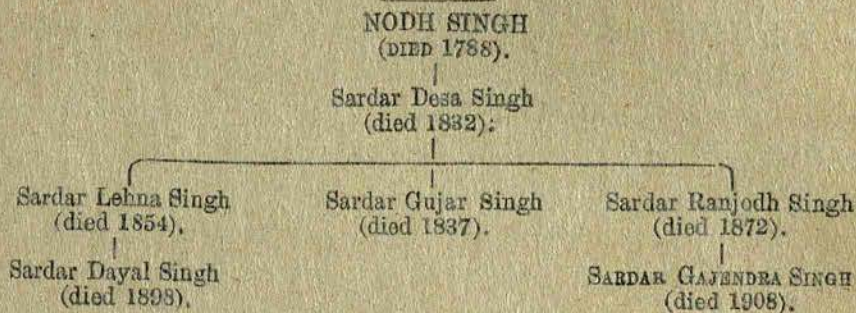
Kahan Singh, son of Gurmukh Singh, was on account of his handsome appearance and love of fine raiment nicknamed "Banka", or fashionable, by Maharaja Ranjit Singh. He was murdered while serving at Bannu by some treacherous servants. His son Basant Singh was a child of seven years at the time of his father's death, and was brought up in the company of Dalip Singh. He enjoyed a pension of Rs. 600 per annum, which was resumed on his death in 1897. His son, Gurcharan Singh, was educated at Cambridge and was called to the Bar in 1891. He has since been practising at Lahore. He is a fellow of the Punjab University and as such an *ex-officio* Divisional Darbari. He and his brother own one-half of the village of Madoki near Atari and also some property in Amritsar city. They are connected by marriage with some of the best Sikh families of Amritsar, Gurdaspur and Lahore.

Most members of the Sindhanwalia family have small holdings and houses at Raja Sansi. They now have little or no connection with the village of Sindhanwalia, from which the family takes its name. This village is in the Sialkot district, about six miles from Wazirabad.

Many descendants are still living of Fateh Singh, Sham Singh, Sher Singh and Baghel Singh, the sons of Gurmukh Singh. Several of these are or have been in the army, principally in the 10th Lancers (Hodson's Horse), a regiment for which Shamsheer Singh, grandfather of the present Sardar, raised a troop in 1857.



THE LATE SARDAR GAJENDRA SINGH MAJITHIA.



The village of Majitha, situated ten miles to the north of the city of Amritsar, has given its name to one of the most distinguished families of the Punjab. The great Majithia family is divided into three branches, represented by Sardars Gajendra Singh, Umrao Singh and Mahtab Singh. The relationship between these Sardars is distant, and the history of their families is quite distinct. Sardar Gajendra Singh and Sardar Mahtab Singh were fifth cousins. But Umrao Singh is a very remote kinsman; and it is necessary to go back fourteen generations to find a common ancestor for the three Majithia Sardars.

First in rank and influence is the family of Sardar Gajendra Singh. His great-grandfather, Nodh Singh, was a respectable *Zamindar* of the Shergil Jat tribe. Nodh Singh married the sister of Sardar Amar Singh Bhaga, the powerful chief of Dharamkot-Bhaga, and became *Zaildar* or feudal retainer of his brother-in-law, who was of the *Kanhaya Misal*, and possessed a large territory in the Gurdaspur district. Nodh Singh acquired a *jagir* of Rs. 2,500, including two wells, at Majitha, and died in 1788 leaving one son, Desa Singh, then twenty years of age. The young man succeeded to his father's estate, and till the year 1809 remained in the service of the Bhaga Sardars. But when Maharaja Ranjit Singh in that year marched to Majitha and Dharamkot, determined to seize the estate of Sardar Budh Singh Bhaga, who had failed to give the supplies demanded of him for the Kangra expedition, Desa Singh, who was very wise in his generation, saw that resistance was hopeless, and having, besides, no love for Budh Singh, went over to the side of the Maharaja, who received him with open arms and, when Budh Singh was vanquished, bestowed upon him the *jagirs* of Sukalgarh and Bhagowal, which had for many years been a portion of the Bhaga estate.



Sardar Desa Singh accompanied Ranjit Singh in his expedition to Kangra, where Raja Sansar Chand Katoch had begged his assistance to expel the Gurkhas under Amar Singh Thapa. Sansar Chand must have found it difficult to distinguish his friends from his enemies; for Ranjit Singh, driving out the Gurkhas, seized his fort, the key to the Kangra valley, and appointed Desa Singh its commandant. He was also made Nazim, or Governor, of the Hill States, Kangra, Chamba, Nurpur, Kotla, Shahpur, Jasrota, Basauli, Mankot, Jaswan, Siba, Goler, Kahlur, Mandi, Suket, Kulu and Datarpur. In 1811 Sardar Desa Singh marched against the fort of Kotla, half way between Kangra and Nurpur, held by Dhian Singh, who had been *Wazir* of the Raja of Goler, and who, trusting to the strength of his position, had given himself the airs of an independent chief. The Maharaja promised Desa Singh half the *ilaka* of Tiloknath, in which the fort was situated, in *jagir* if he succeeded in reducing it in a week; and the energetic Sardar did the work in the appointed time and obtained the *jagir*, worth Rs. 7,000. Two years later he was sent to annex the territory of the Raja of Haripur, who had been shamelessly arrested at Lahore.

Sardar Desa Singh was next appointed Governor of the city of Amritsar, and in 1818 he served in the Multan campaign with distinction in the force of Prince Kharak Singh. After this he returned to his hill Governorship, and collected as usual the revenue and the tribute due from the different States. Bilaspur alone was refractory; and Desa Singh marched against the Raja and seized his territory, both on the Sikh side of the river and that under British protection. This was in violation of the treaty of the 25th August 1809; and the British troops were without delay put in movement to resist it. Ranjit Singh repudiated the action of his lieutenant, and obliged Desa Singh to visit Captain Ross, the officer in charge of the hill frontier, to offer apologies, which were accepted readily; and, indeed, the civilities which passed between them roused the Maharaja's jealousy, and for some time he forbade Desa Singh to have any intercourse with any British officer. Mr. Moorcroft, passing through Amritsar in 1820, found that Desa Singh was unable to visit him on account of this prohibition. About this time the Sardar received a grant of *ilaka* Bhaguwala in the Ferozepore district, where he built a fort and seized by violence some villages belonging to the Ahluwalia Sardar in the Malanwala *ilaka*. His *jagirs* were very extensive. During the reign of Ranjit Singh he, with



his son Lehna Singh, received grants to the value of Rs. 1,24,250 per annum. These included Majitha, Tiloknath, Bhaguwala, a large portion of the old Bhaga estate of which he had been made Governor, Bhaowal, Hariki, Khudpur, Naoshera-Nangli, and Zamanabad, in the Kangra district.

Sardar Desa Singh died in 1832, and was succeeded in all his estates and honours by his eldest son Sardar Lehna Singh. His life had been uniformly prosperous; and the favour of his Sovereign, who had given him the title of *Kasir-ul-ikhtidar* (Chief of Exalted Dignity), never lessened. He was a brave and successful soldier, and a wise and liberal administrator; and his name was long remembered with affection by the people, whom he never oppressed.

Sardar Lehna Singh served with credit in the Multan campaign of 1818, and soon became known for ability and learning. When Ranjit Singh determined to seize the possessions of his mother-in-law, Mai Sada Kaur, Lehna Singh was selected to superintend the unpleasant work. The intriguing lady was seized and carried prisoner to Amritsar. All her estates were confiscated; and the great Kanhaya *Misal*, of which she was head, made no attempt to save her. Ranjit Singh had not expected so easy a success, and said, in full Darbar: "All these Kanhayas are cowards and traitors." Among those who heard this speech was Jodh Singh Harchandar. He set off at once, threw himself with a few men into the Nanga fort, and defended it for some time bravely. The fort of Atalgarh also held out for three weeks, defended by one of Mai Sada Kaur's slave girls, who seemed to have acquired some of the spirit of her mistress.

After the death of Desa Singh, his son received charge of the hill territory between the Ravi and the Sutlej and held the appointment till the beginning of 1844. Lehna Singh did not reside in the hills, but at Amritsar or Majitha. At the former place he was in charge of the Darbar Sahib, the Sikh temple, as his father had been, a post of importance requiring great tact and judgment. Once a year he made a tour in the hills to inquire into the state of the country, to redress grievances, and to examine the accounts. He was a mild and benevolent man, and, like Desa Singh, bore the character of being one of the best Governors that the Sikh rule (famous for rapacity and corruption) ever produced. Lehna Singh possessed the greatest influence with Maharaja Ranjit Singh, and his



counsel was always listened to with respect. His title was *Hussam-ud-Daula* (the Sword of the State).

In 1834 Gujar Singh Majithia, brother of Lehna Singh, was selected to take charge of a mission to Calcutta to convey presents for the King of England, and to endeavour, if possible, to ascertain the intentions of the British Government with regard to Shikarpur. The selection was not a happy one. Sardar Gujar Singh was a young man of ordinary ability, considerable conceit, and debauched habits. He took with him one hundred men, splendidly appointed, the finest that could be picked out of the Sikh army. With him, too, to keep him in order, were sent Rai Gobind Jas, brother to Rai Kishan Chand, Gulab Singh, Commandant, called afterwards *Calcuttia*, and Dewa Singh, Commandant; and plenty of difficulty they had with their charge, who fell desperately in love with a European woman in Calcutta, and wanted to marry her, to the horror of Gobind Jas and the annoyance of Ranjit Singh, who excluded him for some time after his return from Darbar. He brought back no information about Shikarpur, but plenty of English airs and graces, which created great amusement at the Lahore Court. Among other English tastes acquired by Gujar Singh was a love for champagne, from the effects of which, one evening, about two years after his return from Calcutta, he walked over the parapet of the roof of his house at Amritsar and, falling some forty feet, was killed on the spot.

In 1840, after the death of Ranjit Singh, Prince Nao Nihal Singh sent a force under Sardar Ajit Singh Sindhanwalia and General Ventura against Mandi. Raja Balbir Sen was taken prisoner and brought to Amritsar, imprisoned in Gobindgarh, and his territory annexed. But Lehna Singh interested himself very warmly for his old friend, and, when Maharaja Sher Singh ascended the throne, procured his release and the restoration of his country. He signed, with the Sindhanwalias and other chiefs, the agreement which was to exclude Sher Singh from the throne, for at least a time; and when that Prince marched to Lahore and besieged the fort, Lehna Singh was in great alarm and hid himself in Jamadar Khushhal Singh's house till the end of the siege. When Raja Hira Singh rose to power, Sardar Lehna Singh, who was hated by Pandit Jala, the Minister's confidant, fearing to lose his estates or his life, and filled with sudden religious aspirations left the Punjab on a pilgrimage. He first visited Hardwar, and then proceeded to Benares, Allahabad, Jaganath and Calcutta, where



he was residing when the Sutlej campaign commenced, in November 1845. Before leaving the Punjab he made over the management of his estates to his half-brother Ranjodh Singh, the youngest son of Sardar Desa Singh by a hill woman.

Sardar Ranjodh Singh was at this time a General in the Sikh army. He had lately returned from the expedition sent by the Wazir, Jawahir Singh, against Raja Gulab Singh of Jammu and was quite ready for a war with the English, for whom he had no great love. He moved his brigade, consisting of ten thousand infantry, sixty guns, and some irregular cavalry, to Phillour; and on the 17th January 1846 he crossed the Sutlej, intending to move on Ludhiana and capture, if possible, the siege train which was on its way to the head-quarters of the army. At Badowal, on the 21st January, he intercepted the force of Sir Harry Smith, who was marching to Ludhiana, and, more from the exhaustion of the British troops, than from any display of generalship on his part, captured almost all the baggage of the army. This affair so much encouraged the troops of Ranjodh Singh, who had been joined by Sardar Ajit Singh of Ladwa, that at Aliwal, on the 28th January, they left a strong position, contrary to the orders of the General, to attack the British force. The defeat which they experienced is a matter of history; and there is no occasion to dwell upon it here. Ranjodh Singh, who was, if anything, superior to the other leaders of the Sikh army; if leaders they can be called, who were ever the last to enter the fight and the first to run away. His generalship was as contemptible as that of Raja Lal Singh, and his cowardice as conspicuous as that of Raja Teja Singh; but he was no traitor. He had no confidential agents in the British camp as Raja Lal Singh had; nor did he, like the Raja, pray for and labour for the triumph of the English.

Soon after the close of the campaign, Sardar Lehna Singh returned from Calcutta at the invitation of the Council and the Resident. He declined to be formally admitted into the Council, but was ready to give privately any advice he could, and accepted the charge of Amritsar, Gobindgarh and the Manjha in its widest acceptation, being the whole tract of country between the Ravi and the Beas from the hills to Kasur. A great dispute now arose between Lehna Singh and Ranjodh Singh. The latter had preserved the estates entrusted to him for two years and a half in very difficult times, and claimed on Lehna Singh's return a half share of them.



Lehna Singh only wished to allow him a pittance, amounting to about a twentieth of the whole. Both proposals were unjust; and it required all the influence of Sir H. Lawrence to settle the dispute, and to induce Lehna Singh to allow his half brother a *jagir* of Rs. 12,000 per annum.

In August 1844 Lehna Singh consented to join the Council. His administration of the Manjha had been successful. Although he had an objection to capital punishment, he contrived to free the country of robbers and dacoits, who had overrun it after the close of the war; and there was no Sardar whose rule was so generally popular. But his practised eye saw the signs of coming disturbances, and he determined to leave the Punjab. In January 1848 he left for Benares. His personal *jagirs* and religious grants, amounting to Rs. 42,000, and his service *jagir* of Rs. 15,000 were continued to him. All the other *jagirs* were resumed; but the Darbar promised to restore them on his return to the country.

At the close of the Sutlej campaign, Sardar Ranjodh Singh, who had been most averse to peace, was sent with an English officer to induce the Governor of the Kangra fort to submit. His exertions to effect this object were not great; and there is every reason to believe that, through his instigation, the garrison held out longer than it would otherwise have done. He was then appointed Judge of Lahore; but in this post he did not give any satisfaction. When the dispute with his brother was finally adjusted, some guns, which should have been returned to Lehna Singh, were concealed by Ranjodh Singh in a house at Amritsar. He denied their concealment; but a forcible search being made a large mortar, two 24-pound howitzers and a 6-pounder were found. His conduct on this occasion induced the Darbar, on the recommendation of the Resident, to remove him from the Judgeship, in which he was succeeded by Sardar Kahan Singh Man. The next year, 1843, soon after the outbreak at Multan, he was detected in a treasonable correspondence with Mul Raj and was placed in confinement, only being released at the close of the war.

When Ranjodh Singh was arrested and carried prisoner to the fort, 10,000 *budkis** were left in his Lahore house, locked up in a chest. When the Sardar was released, the money was gone. The theft was attributed to common thieves; but it is believed that some wealthy and honoured Sardars could have told what became of the money. The Darbar confiscated his *jagir*; but after annexation he was allowed by his brother an annuity of

* A gold coin, then worth five rupees.



Rs. 2,500. On the death of Lehna Singh the allowance ceased; and the Government granted him a cash pension of Rs. 3,000 per annum, which he held till his death in 1872.

Sardar Lehna Singh returned to the Punjab in 1851; but after two years went back to Benares, where he died in 1854. He was a man of considerable ability, a skilful mechanist and an original inventor. He much improved the Sikh ordnance; and some very beautiful guns of his manufacture were taken at Aliwal and elsewhere. Among other things he invented a clock which showed the hour, the day of the month and the changes of the moon. He was fond of astronomy and mathematics, and was master of several languages. As an administrator, Lehna Singh was very popular. The poor were never oppressed by him; his assessments were moderate; and his decisions essentially just. As a statesman, he may be said to have been almost the only honest man in Lahore. Fraud and corruption were supreme, but the hands of Lehna Singh were always clean: surrounded by the most greedy and unscrupulous of schemers, he preserved his honesty unsullied.

Had a man of the reputation and administrative talent of Lehna Singh taken the lead in 1845 in the Punjab, the great troubles which came upon the country might have been averted. But he was no true patriot. He did not understand that the religion of a statesman, and indeed of every brave man, is to stand by his country in times of danger, sharing her griefs and, if need be, falling with her fall.

Sardar Lehna Singh left one son, Sardar Dayal Singh, a man of good education, well versed in English, Persian and Hindi. He was a rich man and acquired a large amount of landed and house property. He enjoyed a perpetual *jagir* of Rs. 6,000 and Rs. 5,200 from "Dharamarth," Rs. 1,200 of which was for readers of the "Granth" at Tiloknath in the Kangra district. He also owned property purchased by his father in the Amritsar, Gurdaspur and Ferozepore districts and some lands in the Shahabad district of Bengal. He died in 1898 without issue, having bequeathed the whole of his ancestral property situated in the Amritsar district to his first cousin Gajendra Singh. The remainder, including the lands and houses purchased by his father and himself, he left to be devoted to various public and charitable purposes. The chief of these bequests was one for the foundation of an Arts College and public library at Lahore. He also left a considerable sum of money as an endowment for the "Tribune" newspaper, in which he had a large interest.

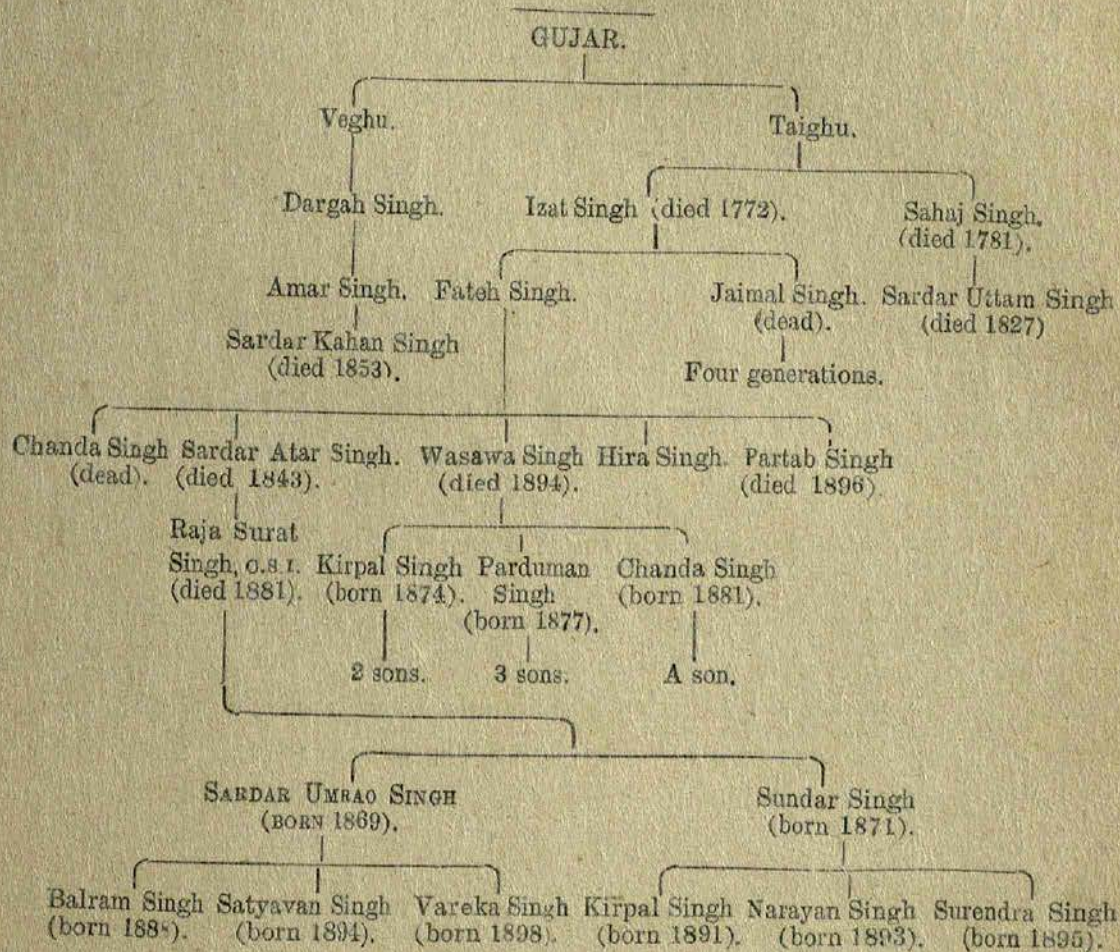


The widow disputed the will, but after protracted litigation the case was finally compromised and, in addition to the rights of maintenance to which she is entitled under the will, the trustees of the charitable bequests have agreed to pay the widow Rs. 450 per mensem for life.

Sardar Gajendra Singh, the last male representative of this family, held about three thousand acres of land, principally in the Amritsar district. He married into the family of Kunwar Narayan Singh of Lahore, an adopted son of the Maharaja Sher Singh. He resided in Amritsar city but took no part in public affairs. He died in December 1908 at the early age of forty-three, leaving a widow Harnam Kaur and an infant daughter. Litigation between the former and the widow of Sardar Dayal Singh seems probable.



SARDAR UMRAO SINGH MAJITHIA.



Like the rest of the Majithia clan, the brothers Izat Singh and Sahaj Singh followed the fortunes of the Sukarchakia Sardars. Izat Singh was able to acquire a strip of the Dhani country on his own account, and held it, with much difficulty and by dint of constant fighting, till his death in 1772. His sons Fateh Singh and Jaimal Singh were mere boys at the time of his death, so his brother Sahaj Singh took possession of the estate. In 1781 Sahaj Singh died, and Uttam Singh, his eldest son, succeeded to the whole property without any opposition from Fateh Singh and Jaimal Singh, who might have been reasonably expected to have claimed their father's share. The cousins lived together in harmony; and when Ranjit Singh rose to power, submitted to him and, having paid tribute, were confirmed in the estate. However, soon after this, in 1803-04, the Maharaja marched in the Rawalpindi direction and demanded the surrender of Nila and Rohtas, a large and strong fort about six miles from the river Jhelum, which had



been captured from the Afghans by Sardar Charat Singh. Sardar Uttam Singh refused, but before hostilities commenced thought better of it, and gave up both to the Maharaja, who placed the fort in the charge of Mohar Singh Lamba and Raja Nur Khan; and the Maharaja then took possession of the whole Dhani country, then famous for its breed of horses. Atar Singh, the adopted son of Uttam Singh, was in 1809 made Governor of the district about Rawalpindi. Uttam Singh died in 1827, and all his *jagirs* were resumed. But the family were not left destitute. Atar Singh received an estate of Rs. 28,000 at Sayad Kasra and Ganja Mahal; and Kahan Singh, his cousin, whose father, Sardar Amar Singh, had fallen in Hazara, one of the same value at Kot Bhai and Sayadpur. Amar Singh, the father of Kahan Singh, was a very distinguished soldier. He was known as Amar Singh, *Kalan* (great); while the father of Sardar Mahtab Singh Majithia was known as Amar Singh, *Khurd* (small).

When Diwan Ram Dayal was killed in Hazara, Amar Singh *Kalan* was appointed Governor of that country. At first he held it in tolerable quiet; but finally quarrelled with Muhammad Khan Tarin, a chief of note, and at Taragarh gave a severe defeat to the tribes, Dhund, Tarin, Tanol and Karal, who had taken up arms in his favour. The battle was over, the enemy had taken to flight, and the Sikh force had retired from the field, when Amar Singh, thirsty and fatigued, went down to the little stream Samandar to bathe and drink. He had only a few horsemen with him; and a number of the enemy returning, and seeing the weakness of the little party, came down and killed Amar Singh and his followers after a desperate defence. For a month the body of the Sardar was left on the ground where he fell; but at last the Sikhs recovered it, and it was burnt with due honours.

To this day in Yusufzai the name of Amar Singh is well remembered; and the people still show a large tree, pierced through and through with an arrow, which they say was shot from the bow of Amar Singh. Atar Singh was some time after allowed to have the management of the old family *ilaka* of Dhani, though he did not hold it in *jagir*. He was killed in Hazara in 1843, and his only son Surat Singh succeeded him. This young man was stationed at Peshawar with his sowars, and during the first Punjab War in 1845-46 had to keep order about Nowshera, which was in a very unsettled state. When Raja Lal Singh was Minister, he tried



to induce Surat Singh to exchange his *jagir* in Jhelum for one in the Bari Doab ; and when the Sardar would not consent, he sent his brother Amar Chand to seize by force the *jagir* and the fort of Sayad Kasra. Surat Singh resisted this violence ; but he would have been overpowered had not Lal Singh's Kashmir intrigues worked his downfall at the close of 1846. As it was, a large portion of his *jagirs* were resumed, but were restored early in 1847. When the rebellion of 1848 broke out, Sardar Kahan Singh was at Peshawar, where he was in command of the Orderly Regiment. He remained faithful to the last, more from timidity than from loyalty, and when the Peshawar troops mutinied did his best to induce them to return to their duty. But when Sardar Chatar Singh Atariwala arrived at Peshawar, Kahan Singh joined him, though unwillingly, and served with the rebel army till the end of the campaign.

Sardar Surat Singh in no way shared his cousin's misgivings or fears. He joined the rebellion from the first, and, indeed, was one of its excitors. It seems that as early as July 1847 he had talked treason with Sardar Chatar Singh ; and when he was summoned from Peshawar in July 1848 to join Raja Sher Singh with five hundred horse, he had another meeting on the road with Chatar Singh, and brought to Raja Sher Singh his father's injunctions to rebel. The defection of Raja Sher Singh appears to have been in a great measure owing to Surat Singh's evil influence. The evidence of Shaikh Imam-ud-din Khan is to the effect that at the meeting of Raja Sher Singh's officers at Multan on the night of the 14th September, Raja Sher Singh tried to persuade his men to remain faithful ; but that Surat Singh harangued the soldiery, and by his arguments so inflamed their passions, that the Raja could only secure his safety by adopting the popular side and going over to Mul Raj. When Sher Singh left Multan, Surat Singh was placed in command of one division of his army ; two thousand men and two guns. On the march to Jalalpur, in the Gujranwala district, this detachment committed many excesses. At Chinot especially, where the population is Muhammadan, and at Jhang, the mosques were defiled and many of the inhabitants shamefully treated. Surat Singh also plundered two lakhs of Government money on its way to Multan. After the battle of Gujrat retribution came. The *jagirs* of Surat Singh, worth Rs. 22,500, were confiscated, and he was removed to Benares, where he remained under surveillance on a pension of Rs. 720 per annum.



Kahan Singh's conduct was regarded with some pity. He had tried to remain faithful, but had not at last strength to resist the persuasions and example of others ; but his criminality did not approach that of Surat Singh. His *jagirs* were confiscated to the value of Rs. 40,000, but he was allowed a pension of Rs. 3,600 per annum, which he enjoyed till his death in 1853. When Kahan Singh lost his *jagirs* he was the owner of two elephants, which had been used on all occasions of state. But the Sardar considered that both he and his elephants could not live in idleness upon his pension, and determined to make them of use. He accordingly had a framework constructed, to the underside of which some twenty ploughs were fastened in a long line. To this he yoked his elephants ; and the sagacious animals ploughed the Majitha fields as if they had been born to the work ; and people used to come from all quarters to see the wonderful sight. He also had a very large well and Persian wheel constructed, and made the elephants irrigate the fields which they had ploughed.

The Mutiny of 1857 found Sardar Surat Singh still in exile at Benares. Adversity had taught him wisdom ; and he was now as warm in his loyalty as he had before been active in rebellion. On the 4th June 1857 the 37th Native Infantry was disbanded at Benares, and some suspicious movement being observed in a corps of Ludhiana Sikhs present on the ground, the guns, which were being served against the 37th, were turned against the Sikhs. The whole affair seems to have been a miserable mistake ; and there is no reason to believe that the corps was anything but loyal. But it was not prepared for so severe a test of its loyalty, and accordingly charged the guns ; but was repulsed with great loss and driven from the field. It happened that the Benares treasury, which contained several lakhs of rupees and the jewels of the Maharani Jindan, valued at twenty lakhs, was guarded by a detachment of the Sikh regiment which had been cut up. Hard by the treasury was the Collector's Court, a strong masonry building, on the roof of which some twelve Civilians had taken their stand to defend the treasure and their own lives in the event of an outbreak. When the Sikh guard heard of the fate of their comrades, their agitation and rage was extreme, and they would certainly have mutinied, seized the treasure, and attacked the Europeans, had not Sardar Surat Singh gone in among them and, by his personal influence and expostulations, kept them to a sense of their duty. Through that long June night, the Sardar, ably seconded by Pandit Gokal Chand, argued and entreated till, towards morning, the little



party were escorted to the mint by a European force. At Jaunpur another detachment of the Ludhiana Regiment was stationed. When these men heard of the destruction of their regiment, they rose in fury, shot their Commanding Officer, murdered the Joint Magistrate, and marched to Lucknow with the treasure. But for the gallantry and loyalty of Surat Singh, the same tragedy might have taken place at Benares. Some time later, the Sardar commanded the force sent to bring in the Sultanpur fugitives, and on several other occasions showed conspicuous gallantry in the field. On the 6th July, when engaged with a body of Rajputs who had attacked Benares, he was severely wounded by a sabre cut on the thigh, which confined him to his bed for some months, and from the effect of which he became lame.

For his services during 1857, the Supreme Government granted Sardar Surat Singh a pension of Rs. 4,800 per annum, and a valuable *jagir* in perpetuity at Dumri in the Gorakhpur district, North-West Provinces. He also received permission to return to the Punjab.

From his return to Majitha in 1861 until his death, Raja Surat Singh devoted much of his time to the improvement of his property. He was an active man, of business habits. In 1875 he was appointed an Honorary Magistrate, and was invested with civil judicial powers, which he exercised at Majitha, building a commodious Court-house at his own expense. In 1877, on the occasion of the Delhi Imperial Assemblage, the title of Raja was conferred upon him. In the same year he received the Companionship of the Star of India. The Raja died in 1881 at Majitha, leaving two sons, Umrao Singh and Sundar Singh, of whom the former succeeded him as head of the family and holds his father's seat in Provincial Darbars. Both the sons were minors at the time of their father's death and their guardianship and the management of the estate devolved upon Sardar Captain Gulab Singh Atariwala, under the supervision of the Court of Wards. On the death of Captain Gulab Singh in 1887, Lala Gurmukh Rai, a pleader of Amritsar, was appointed to the charge. In November 1882 the two young Sardars were entered on the rolls of the Government School, Amritsar, and later they both studied at the Aitchison College at Lahore. In 1883 Sardar Umrao Singh was married to the daughter of Captain Gulab Singh. He and his wife, the Sardarni, reside at Lahore. They have visited Europe twice, and had the honour of being presented to the Prince and Princess of Wales on the occasion of the Royal visit to



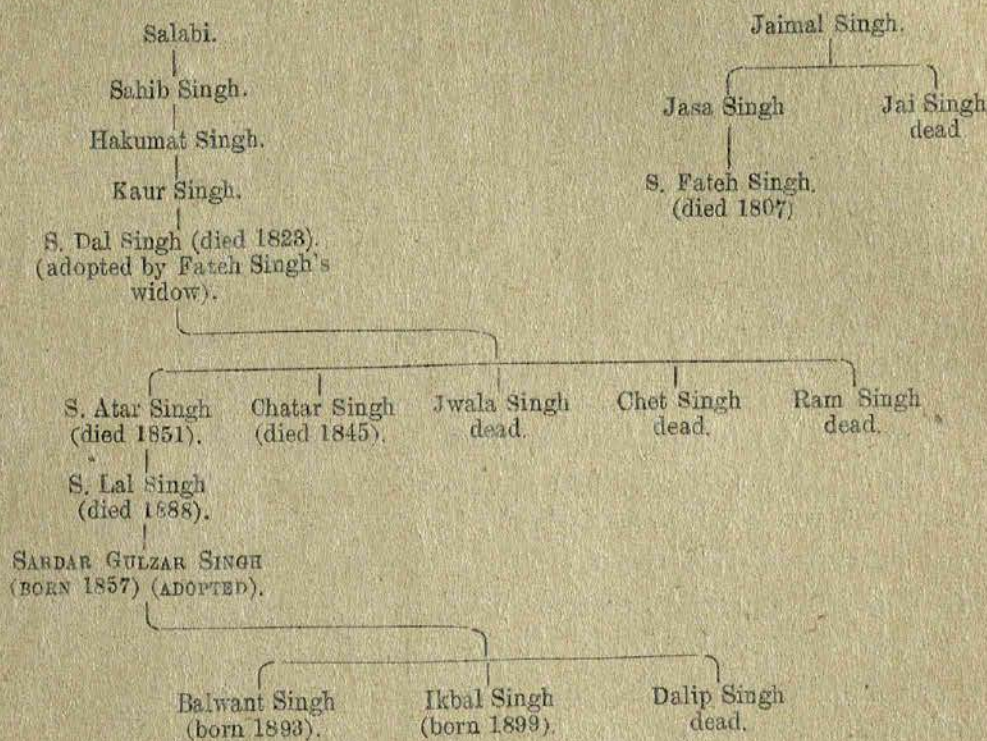
Lahore in November 1905. Of their sons the eldest, Balram Singh, is aide-de-camp to H. H. the Maharaja of Kashmir, and the two younger ones attend the Aitchison College as day scholars. Sundar Singh was married in 1887 to the daughter of Sardar Bishan Singh of Kandaula in the Ludhiana district, maternal uncle of the Raja of Faridkot. She died in the same year. He afterwards married a daughter of Sardar Sir Atar Singh, K.C.I.E., Chief of Badaur in the Ludhiana district. The expenses of the ceremony were entirely regulated by the then new rules formulated by the bride's father. This was the first marriage in the upper classes at which these regulations were respected. They have for their object the repression of one unnecessary source of debt in most Indian families, namely, lavish hospitality and extravagant accessories on occasions of betrothal and marriage. Sundar Singh is a Fellow of the Punjab University and Secretary of the Committee of the Khalsa College, Amritsar. He lives at Amritsar.

In lieu of his pension of Rs. 4,800, Raja Surat Singh was in 1874 awarded a *jagir* of the same amount in perpetuity, to descend integrally; the successors being chosen by Government. The annual income of the estate is about Rs. 50,000, of which Rs. 40,000 is from the Oudh property in the Gorakhpur district.

A sister of Sardar Umrao Singh married in 1889 a son of the late Sardar Ajit Singh Alawalpuria, of Jullundur.



SARDAR GULZAR SINGH KALIANWALA.



Sardar Gulzar Singh does not belong to the old Kalianwala stock, nor is he related to the great Sardar Fateh Singh, through whom the present family attained wealth and honours. The story of Fateh Singh's family must be briefly told. Jaimal Singh, grandfather of Sardar Fateh Singh, was a Sindhu Jat, and the first of his family to adopt the Sikh faith. He was a resident of Kali Lakhu, near Amritsar. He was a follower of the Sukarchakia chiefs, Charat Singh and Mahan Singh, and with them was engaged in constant quarrels with the Chatha tribe inhabiting the northern part of the Gujranwala district; and in one skirmish with some Chatha marauders both his sons, Jai Singh and Jasa Singh, were slain. Fateh Singh entered the service of Ranjit Singh about 1798, and very rapidly rose in the favour of his master. He was a brave and skilful soldier and proved himself as such in almost every campaign undertaken by the Maharaja till 1807. He fought against Ghulam Muhammad Khan Chatha, against Jodh Singh of Wazirabad and Nadhan Singh Atu. He was with the Maharaja when he captured the city of Lahore, and when he took Amritsar from the Bhangis and the Ramgar-



hias with the aid of the Ahluwalia and Kanhaya Sardars. He fought in the Jhang and the Pindi Bhatian campaigns; and it was in a great measure owing to his advice that Ranjit Singh did not espouse the cause of Rai Jaswant Rao Holkar against the British Government in 1805. Much assisted by Fateh Singh's good offices, peace was concluded between the English and Holkar, who gave to the Sardar many valuable gifts in recognition of his services. Fateh Singh distinguished himself at the capture of Chiniot from Jassa Singh Bhangi, and when Jhang was taken in 1806 from Ahmad Khan Sial the district was leased to Fateh Singh for Rs. 60,000 per annum. Ahmad Khan, however, soon after made a compromise with Fateh Singh, who returned to Lahore.

Towards the close of 1806 the Sardar was sent against Kasur, where Kutab-ud-din Khan was giving trouble. The Pathan chief held out bravely, but was glad to buy off the Sikh by the payment of a lakh of rupees. At the beginning of 1807, a Sikh army, under Ranjit Singh in person, again marched against Kasur, and after a long fight reduced it. Fateh Singh promised to Kutab-ud-din the quiet possession of his estate at Mamdot if he would give up the Kasur fort; and although Ranjit Singh did not approve of the promise, yet he considered himself bound to confirm it.

Beneath the banner of Fateh Singh, many of the chief Sikh barons were proud to fight. Among others was Amir Singh Sindhanwalia, Dal Singh Naharna, Dhana Singh Malwai, Fateh Singh Matu and Uttam Singh Chachi.

In 1807 Ranjit Singh, returning from Patiala, besieged the fort of Narayangarh held by Sardar Kishan Singh. For fifteen days it held out; and the Maharaja became very impatient at the delay, and told Fateh Singh, who was in immediate command, that he was fonder of remaining by him (the Maharaja) than of leading the troops in the field. Fateh Singh, piqued at this, assaulted the fort; but was repulsed and mortally wounded. Ranjit Singh came to visit him in his tent, and Fateh Singh is said to have advised the Maharaja never to raise another Jat to the highest office in the State. Whether such advice was ever given is doubtful, but the Maharaja appeared to act upon some such principle; for while his bravest officers and generals were Jat Sikhs, in the Council he rather gave his confidence to Brahmans, Rajputs and even Muhammadans.



Fateh Singh left no son, and Ranjit Singh might have resumed all his *jagirs*; but, feeling some remorse for the Sardar's death, he sent Mit Singh Padhania, on his arrival at Amritsar, with a valuable *khilat* to Mai Sewan, the widow; and bid him tell her that any one whom she should nominate as her husband's heir and successor would be recognized. There were several chiefs well loved by Fateh Singh, and none more so than Dhana Singh Malwai and Dal Singh Naherna. The latter was his *potrela* (godson) and a great favourite. But for the succession to Fateh Singh's estates, Dal Singh is said neither to have trusted to fortune nor to favour. On the night of Mit Singh's arrival at Kali, Dal Singh paid him a private visit, and for Rs. 5,000 Mit Singh told Mai Sewan that, although she might nominate whom she pleased, Ranjit Singh would be only pleased with Dal Singh; and he was accordingly selected.

Notwithstanding the generosity of Ranjit Singh on this occasion, there were not wanting many who said that the *jagirs* had been given to Dal Singh as a thank-offering for the death of Fateh Singh; that Ranjit Singh had long feared the chief, and that he dared him to assault Narayangarh, through an impracticable breach, in the hope of his death. On one occasion, at Wazirabad, Ranjit Singh told Fateh Singh to draw his forces on one side that he might see how numerous they were. When the order was given the whole army went over to the great Kalianwala chief, and Ranjit Singh, to his rage and chagrin, found himself almost deserted. He never forgot the incident, or forgave the chief who had too much influence with the army.

Dal Singh Naherna's family originally resided at Karial, in Shaikhupura, and is of the naherna or barber (or, more properly, nail-cutter) caste. It is stated that an ancestor, a Wirk Jat, fell in love and eloped with one Rami, the daughter of Duni Chand of the Jandi Naherna tribe, and that the name Naherna has been ever since attached to the family. But this is a fiction, and has only been invented since the family rose to importance. Dal Singh was not of Jat descent. Sahib Singh Naherna was the associate of Bhagwan Singh, and became known as a bold and successful robber. When Charat Singh became powerful, both Sahib Singh and Bhagwan Singh joined him; and when he had conquered the country about Pind Dadan Khan, Bhagwan Singh claimed a third share. This, Charat Singh did not fancy giving, and believing that he could



trust Sahib Singh he resolved to get rid of his troublesome ally. Soon after, the three men went on a hunting expedition, and a wild boar happening to run past, Charat Singh cried aloud "Don't let the beast escape." Sahib Singh, who well understood the meaning of these words shot Bhagwan Singh dead. For this service he was rewarded with a *jagir*. Both his son, Hakumat Singh, and his grandson, Kaur Singh, were in the service of the Sukarchakia chief, but they were not men of any note.

Sardar Dal Singh was a bold and able man, and was a great favourite with Sardar Fateh Singh Kalianwala, under whose orders he used to fight. At the time of Fateh Singh's death, Dal Singh had a *jagir* of about Rs. 68,000; but when the Kalianwala *jagirs*, with the exception of Rs. 70,000 settled on Mai Sewan and the children of Fateh Singh's daughter were made over to him, his estates were worth about Rs. 3,50,000. Most of the Sardars who had fought under Fateh Singh were now led by Dal Singh; and the barber showed himself as brave in battle as the best of the Jat aristocracy. He served with honour in the Kasur, Multan, Kashmir and Dera Ismail Khan campaigns.

In 1814 he was sent, with Ram Dayal, grandson of Diwan Mohkam Chand, in command of a detachment of ten thousand men, to force their way into Kashmir by way of Nandan Sar, while Ranjit Singh himself proceeded by way of Punch. This detachment was surrounded and outnumbered, and it was only on account of the friendship entertained for Diwan Mohkam Chand by Azim Khan that he was allowed to return unmolested. In the spring of 1815, again in company with Ram Dayal, he ravaged the Multan and Bahawalpur territories, exacting fines and contributions from every town; and later in the year he was sent against the Bhimbar and Rajauri chiefs. He reduced them to submission, and burnt a large portion of the city of Rajaur. He died in 1823, according to his family, of cholera; but the commonly received story is that he took poison after having been severely rebuked by the Maharaja for the inefficient state of his contingent. He was succeeded in his *jagir* by his eldest son Atar Singh.

In 1834 Atar Singh was sent to Peshawar under the command of Prince Nao Nihal Singh. While there, Diwan Hakim Rai, who was the



chamberlain of the Prince and a great favourite, induced some of the Sardars, who had been accustomed to fight under the command of Atar Singh, to go over to him with their troops. On this Atar Singh left the army without leave, and came to Lahore to complain to the Maharaja. He was not well received, and was ordered to rejoin the army, then in Bannu, without delay. Atar Singh refused; and the Maharaja confiscated all his *jagirs*, with the exception of the family estate of Kala, worth Rs. 3,500, and Hamidpur, Rs. 750. Thus it remained till the death of Ranjit Singh. His successor, Kharak Singh, restored Rs. 12,750, free of service; and Maharaja Sher Singh, on the return of Atar Singh from the Ganges, where he had conveyed the ashes of Maharaja Kharak Singh, and Prince Nao Nihal Singh, gave him, at Pindi Gheb and Mirowal, *jagirs* valued at Rs. 1,02,000; this was subject to the service of two hundred horse, and included a grant of Rs. 2,000 to his son Lal Singh. Atar Singh was made *Adalati* (Chief Justice) of Lahore and the surrounding districts, and received command of the Pindiwala irregular cavalry, which had been first raised by Milka Singh Pindiwala. No change took place in his *jagir* till Jawahir Singh became Wazir, when Atar Singh represented that Pindi Gheb, though nominally worth Rs. 65,000, only yielded Rs. 50,000, and obtained in exchange the *ilakas* of Chunian, Dhundianwali and Khudian, worth Rs. 60,000.

After the murder of Prince Pashaura Singh by Jawahir Singh's orders, the army, enraged at the conduct of the Wazir, determined upon his death, and threw off their allegiance to the Lahore Government. Sardar Atar Singh was, on the 19th September, sent by the Rani Jindan, with Diwan Dina Nath and Fakir Nur-ud-din, to the camp at Mian Mir to induce the mutinous troops to return to their duty. No attention was, however, paid to their advice; the Fakir was dismissed, but the Diwan and Atar Singh were insulted, abused, and confined in camp till after the murder of the Wazir, on the 22nd September, when the army, always afraid of the Rani, sent them to Lahore to try and make their peace.

Sardar Atar Singh served throughout the Sutlej campaign of 1845-46, and at the battle of Ferozeshah his brother Chatar Singh was killed. In September 1846 Atar Singh was ordered to join the Sikh army proceeding to Kashmir to suppress the rebellion there; but he took no notice of repeated injunctions, remaining at his house, near Amritsar, on pretence of



celebrating the marriage of his niece. For this conduct his *jagir* was confiscated. Shortly afterwards, however, it was restored to him and made up to Rs. 1,11,800. He received a seat in the Council of Regency appointed on December 1846, and held this post till the annexation of the Punjab. On the first news of the outbreak at Multan in April 1848, he was ordered to proceed thither in command of all the available irregular troops. He was recalled, with the other Sardars, when the Resident at Lahore found that it was considered inexpedient to send a European force to Multan at that time of year; but later, he accompanied Raja Sher Singh to Multan in command of the cavalry.

The Sardar had little influence over the troops which he commanded. He was of a weak and vacillating character; and although his own intentions were good, he was quite unable to keep his men to their duty. Day by day they grew more and more mutinous, and deserted in numbers to the rebel Mul Raj in Multan. At length it was agreed by the three Sikh Generals, Raja Sher Singh, Sardar Shamsher Singh and Sardar Atar Singh, in concert with Major Edwardes, and with the concurrence of the English General, that the only thing to do was to move the troops out of temptation, away from Multan. Sardar Atar Singh's division was to be posted at Talamba under pretence of keeping open the road; but before the movement could be executed the whole Sikh army rebelled and, being joined by Raja Sher Singh, marched to Multan. Sardar Atar Singh mounted his horse and fled to the camp of Major Edwardes with a few horsemen. His son Lal Singh was carried off by the troops, but soon afterwards contrived to make his escape and joined Edwardes also.

Lal Singh had in June 1847 been sent in command of five hundred sowars to Hassan Abdal, and had remained there till the 3rd of May 1848, when he received an order to join the force of Raja Sher Singh on its way to Multan. When Diwan Kishan Kaur, *Adalati* of Batala, joined the rebels, Sardar Lal Singh was appointed to succeed him, and held the appointment for about three months till the close of the Sikh administration.

On annexation all the personal *jagirs* of Sardar Atar Singh, amounting to Rs. 47,750, were maintained for life; one quarter to descend to



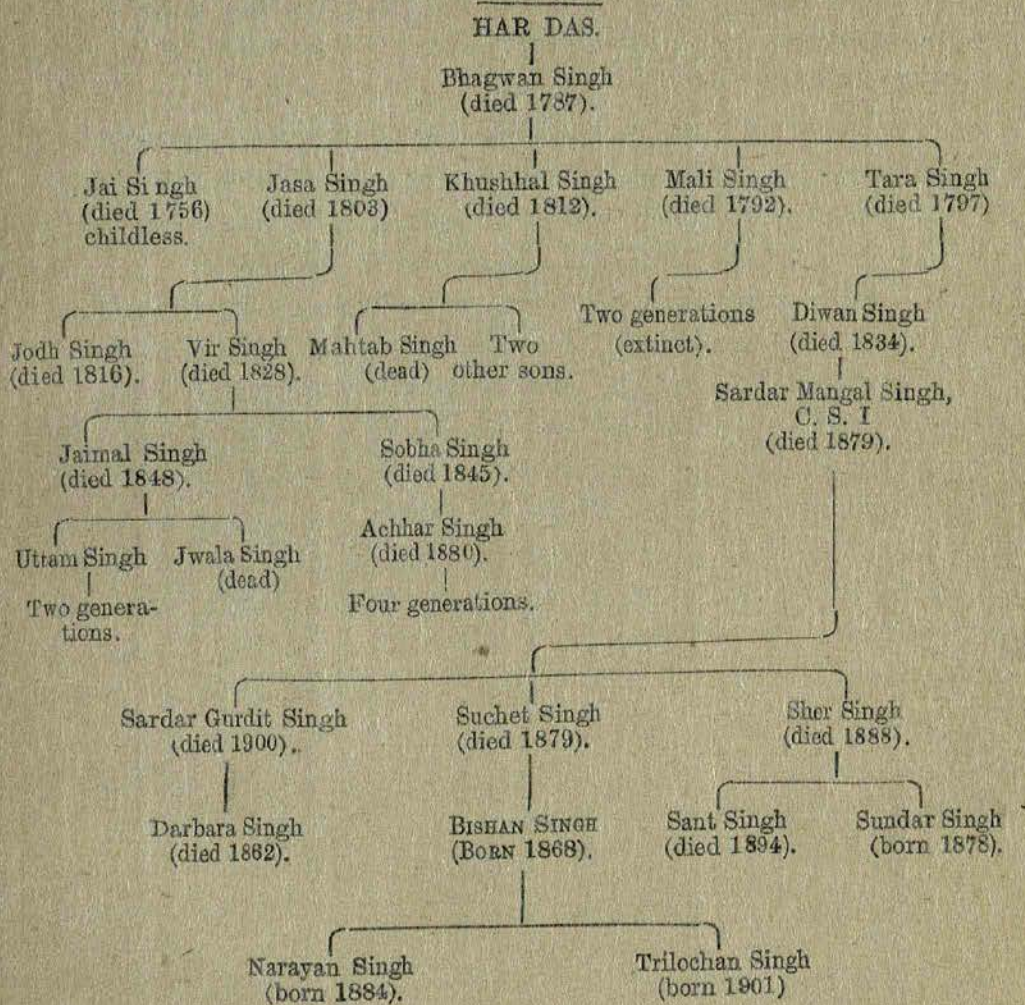
his son Lal Singh and his male heirs in perpetuity. The *jagir* of Sardar Lal Singh worth Rs. 3,600 being a recent grant of 1848, was resumed; but he was assigned a cash allowance of Rs. 4,800 from the *jagir* of his father, with whom he was at feud.

Sardar Atar Singh died in December 1851, and three-fourths of his *jagir* was resumed. The share of his son Lal Singh was in February 1862 raised to Rs. 15,000, which is continued in perpetuity. Lal Singh resided at Kala in the Amritsar district, where he died in 1888. For many years he had taken no active part in public affairs beyond sitting as a member of the committee of Maharaja Ranjit Singh's *Samadh* at Lahore. He was a splendid specimen of the old Sikh Sardar, and to the last was fond of hawking, hunting and other field sports. He had been four times married, but had no children. He adopted his nephew Gulzar Singh, to whom, on the special recommendation of Sir Charles Aitchison, the Government of India continued the *jagir* of Rs. 15,000 in perpetuity. Sardar Gulzar Singh was privately educated and resides at Kala. He is an Honorary Magistrate and a Provincial Darbari. In addition to the *jagir*, the Sardar possesses other property in land and houses.



CHIEFS AND FAMILIES OF NOTE.

BISHAN SINGH RAMGARHIA.



The Ramgarhia *Misal*, from which the family of Bishan Singh takes its name, was one of the most powerful of the Sikh confederacies, and towards the close of the eighteenth century could bring into the field about eight thousand fighting men. Of its leaders, Jasa Singh was the most distinguished, although he can hardly be called its founder; for through many unquiet years it had existed as an organized body under Khushhal Singh and Nand Singh. But it was only when Jasa Singh succeeded to the command in 1758 that it became powerful and renowned.

Har Das, the grandfather of Jasa Singh, was a Hindu of the *najjar* or carpenter caste, resident at Sarsang in the Lahore district. He was content to follow his humble trade in his native village; but his son



Bhagwan, of a more adventurous disposition, took the *Pauhal*, and, with the addition of Singh to his name, wandered about the country, making converts to his new faith. He at length settled at Ichugil, where there were born to him five sons, Jai Singh, Jasa Singh, Khushhal Singh, Mali Singh and Tara Singh; the four last of whom became noted men and leaders of the *Ramgarhia Misal*. There was no great difference in the ages of the brothers; and in 1752, on their reaching manhood, they entered the service of the celebrated Nawab Adina Beg Khan. This able man, then Imperial Governor of the Jullundur Doab, encouraged the Sikhs in their resistance to Ahmad Shah Durani, hoping to rise by their assistance to supreme power in the province; and in this he would probably have been successful, but for his premature death in 1758. When Prince Timur, son of Ahmad Shah, marched against him, determined to punish his opposition, Adina Beg retreated to the hills, and Jasa Singh and his brothers left him and went to Amritsar, where they joined the force of Nand Singh Sanghani. Jai Singh was about this time killed in action with the Afghans near Majitha.

Amritsar was at this time no more than a large village; and on the retreat of the Afghans, Nand Singh and Jasa Singh partially fortified it, surrounding a portion with a high mud wall, which they called Ram Rauni. When Adina Beg returned, thinking the Sikhs were becoming too powerful, he sent Mirza Aziz Bakhsh to reduce the new fort, which was, in truth, no difficult matter. Jasa Singh and his friends fought gallantly, and made more than one sally from the fort; but they were overmatched, and at length abandoned it at night, and with considerable loss cut their way through the enemy. The Ram Rauni was dismantled; but Adina Beg died shortly afterwards, and Jasa Singh, taking command of the confederacy, named the fort he had defended so bravely Ramgarh, and his *Misal* the Ramgarhia. He seized at this time, aided by the *Kanhaya Misal*, Dinanagar, Batala, Kalanaur, Sri Hargobindpur, Kadian, Ghuman and many other towns in the Amritsar and Gurdaspur districts, the revenue of which was estimated at from six to ten lakhs of rupees. Besides this, Jasa Singh, who was sole lord of the territory, acquired many villages in the Jullundur Doab. To his brothers he gave separate *jagirs* under him. It was their imprudence which brought great trouble on the family; for as Jasa Singh Ahluwalia was passing near Gurdaspur on his way to Achal, a place of pilgrimage, he was attacked by Khushhal Singh, Mali Singh and Tara Singh; his troops



were dispersed and himself taken prisoner. Jasa Singh Ramgarhia, who would have been glad enough had his brothers slain his rival, could only release him with rich gifts when he was brought in as prisoner; for the old Sikh barons had much of the spirit of chivalry. But the Ahluwalia chieftain was not to be appeased. He was locked up to as the head of the Khalsa, and indeed its founder; his followers and flatterers called him King (*Sultan-ul-Kaum*), and yet he had been insulted by these Ramgarhia youths whose beards had but just begun to grow; and he swore a mighty oath that he would never loose his turban till he had seized all the Ramgarhia estates. Many chiefs came to aid him, thinking not much of the insult, but having an eye to plunder and new *jagirs*. There was Ganda Singh and Jhanda Singh Bhangi; the Kanhayas, Jai Singh and Hakikat Singh, old friends of the Ramgarhias; Charat Singh Sukarchakia, Nar Singh Chamariwala and many others. They attacked Jasa Singh on all sides, and after a severe struggle took possession of all the Ramgarhia territory. Khushhal Singh was badly wounded at Bhagowal fighting with Jai Singh Kanhaya; Tara Singh lost Kalanaur, and Jasa Singh fled across the Sutlej to Sirsa with a large body of irregular horse, having sent his two sons to the Patiala chief, Amar Singh, to beg assistance.

In the Sirsa district he remained till 1783. He overran the country with his horsemen, and plundered up to the walls of Delhi; on one occasion he penetrated into Delhi itself and carried off four guns from the Mughal quarter. The Nawab of Meerut paid him tribute of Rs. 10,000 a year to save his district from plunder. One day a Brahman complained to him that the Governor of Hissar had carried off his two daughters by force. Jasa Singh collected his forces and marched against Hissar, which he plundered, and restored the girls to their father. Sometimes he was reduced to great straits; and there is a story, which may be true, that at Sirsa a servant of the Sardar happening to drop his vessel down a well a diver was sent to fetch it, who discovered at the bottom four boxes full of gold mohars to the value of five lakhs of rupees, enabling Jasa Singh to pay his troops and enlist new followers.

A great famine desolated Sirsa in 1783, and the Sardar returned to the Punjab. At Ludhiana he met messengers from Sardar Mahan Singh Sukarchakia and Raja Sansar Chand of Kangra, offering to re-instate him in his possessions if he would join them against Sardar Jai Singh Kanhaya.



Jasa Singh consented readily enough, and having joined forces the allies marched to Batala. Gurbakhsh Singh, son of Jai Singh, advanced against them with eight thousand men; but he was defeated and slain, and the Kanhaya chief was compelled to give up the Ramgarhia estates to their old owner, and the fort of Kangra, which he had held for four years, to Sansar Chand. But Jasa Singh was not destined to enjoy peace; and for many years he was engaged in disputes with the Kanhaya *Misal*, in which he was sometimes successful, sometimes defeated.

In 1796 his last and most severe struggle with the Kanhayas took place. Mai Sada Kaur, widow of Sardar Gurbakhsh Singh, was then head of the *Misal*; and with all her own forces and those of her young son-in-law, Ranjit Singh, she besieged Jasa Singh in Miani, a fort in the Hoshiarpur district near the Beas. Jasa Singh defended himself for some time; but his provisions ran very low, and he sent a messenger to Sahib Singh Bedi at Amritsar to beg him to interpose between him and his enemies. Jodh Singh Wazirabadia and Dal Singh Gil were with the Bedi on the part of Ranjit Singh when the Ramgarhia messenger arrived, and Sahib Singh gave them a message to Sada Kaur and Ranjit Singh bidding them raise the siege of Miani. But Sada Kaur would not retire without her revenge for her husband's death; and her enemy was now in her hands, so no notice was taken of the Bedi's order. Again Jasa Singh sent a messenger, and Bedi Sahib Singh said, "They will not mind me, but God himself will aid you." The messenger returned to Miani, and that very night the river Beas came down in flood and swept away a large portion of the Kanhaya camp, men and horses and camels. Sada Kaur and Ranjit Singh escaped with difficulty and retired to Gujranwala.

Jasa Singh died in 1803, and was succeeded by his eldest son Jodh Singh. The new Sardar was not a man of any ability, and his cousin Diwan Singh seized a large portion of the *jagir*. At length Ranjit Singh began to lust after the Ramgarhia territory, and feigned the greatest affection for Sardar Jodh Singh. He had a contract of eternal friendship between himself and the Ramgarhia family drawn out; and before the *Granth*, in the holy Darbar Sahib at Amritsar, he stamped the paper, in his royal and illiterate way, with his open palm dyed with saffron. The better to cajole Jodh Singh, he went over the Ramgarh fort almost unattended, and ordered his new fort of Gobindgarh to be built in the same fashion. Ranjit Singh cared little about keeping oaths, however solemn



but Jodh Singh had been won over, and became so devoted a follower that there was no excuse to annex his territory. He accompanied the Maharaja to Kasur with all his force in the last successful expedition against Kntab-ud-din Khan.

On the death of Jodh Singh in 1816, the family began to quarrel; Diwan Singh, Vir Singh and the widow of Jodh Singh all claiming the estate. The Maharaja, hearing of this, called the three cousins, Vir Singh, Mahtab Singh and Diwan Singh, to him at Nadaun, promising to settle the dispute by arbitration. On their arrival they were received with courtesy by the Maharaja; but he soon took occasion to leave the reception tent, which was straightway surrounded with troops, and the three Ramgarhias made prisoners. Then Ranjit Singh marched on Amritsar, and after some severe fighting took the fort of Ramgarh. Again, marching northward, he seized all the vast Ramgarhia *jagirs*, and in a short time reduced all their forts upwards of a hundred in number. And thus was cancelled the saffron bond.

Vir Singh and Mahtab Singh were soon released, and were placed under Sardar Lehna Singh Majithia; and at the intercession of Sardar Nihal Singh Atariwala a *jagir* of Rs. 85,000 was settled on the family. Diwan Singh for some time refused to accept his share of Rs. 6,000 at Dharamkot, and remained a prisoner; but at length pretended to acquiesce. On regaining his freedom, however, he fled to Patiala, where he was at first well received; but after a year was compelled to leave, and he then wandered about for some time till he thought it best to submit, and, returning to Lahore, he accepted a command of seven hundred men in the expedition then fitting out for Kashmir. After this we hear little of him beyond that he remained in charge of Baramula, a difficult hill-post on the road to Srinagar, till his death in 1834. Vir Singh had died six years before in 1828, when two-thirds of his *jagir* were resumed.

Sardar Mangal Singh served during his younger days about the person of Maharaja Ranjit Singh, who gave him *jagirs* in Dharamkot, Kalowala, Tibrah and Kundilah, worth Rs. 9,000, of which Rs. 3,600 were personal, and Rs. 5,400 for service. The personal *jagir* has been continued to his successors in perpetuity. It is situated at Thera Kalan in the Ajnala tahsil, and Rangar Nangal and Rupowali in the Batala tahsil. After his father's death, Sardar Mangal Singh was sent to Peshawar in



command of four hundred foot and one hundred and ten sowars of the old Ramgarhia clan. Here, under Sardar Tej Singh and Sardar Hari Singh Nalwa, he did good service, and fought in the famous battle of Jamrud in April 1837, where the gallant Hari Singh was killed. In 1839 he was recalled and sent to the hill country between the Beas and the Sutlej under the order of Sardar Lehna Singh Majithia, and during the absence of that chief at Peshawar he was placed in charge of the hill forts, and was active in the suppression of the insurrection of 1840.

During the reign of Maharaja Sher Singh, he was chiefly employed under Lehna Singh in Suket, Mandi and Kulu, and he remained there till the close of the Sutlej War in 1846. The Rajput chiefs, with Raja Balbir Sen of Mandi at their head, were not slow to take advantage of the war with the English, and gave the Sardar plenty of work; but he held his ground till the treaty of the 9th March 1846 enabled him to give up his trust with honour.

During the second Sikh War, Sardar Mangal Singh remained loyal, and did excellent service in guarding the roads and maintaining order in the Amritsar and Gurdaspur districts. His great exploit, however, at this time was the capture of the notorious rebel and robber Hari Singh, who had for some time kept the country about Amritsar in a state of alarm. This he effected at Sagarpura, near Rangar Nangal, a grant of which *jagir* worth Rs. 3,700, was made to him by the Darbar and confirmed after annexation.

In 1862, on the retirement of Sardar Jodh Singh Man, Sardar Mangal Singh was appointed manager of the affairs of the Sikh temple at Amritsar. This appointment, which is one of some difficulty, was filled by the Sardar with tact and ability. In the same year he was appointed Honorary Magistrate of the city of Amritsar. In 1876, His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales conferred upon him the Companionship of the Star of India. He died in 1879, and his special *jagir* of Rs. 3,700 granted to him by the Darbar was resumed.

Sardar Mangal Singh was a man of education and liberal ideas. It was in a great measure owing to his influence and example that the cause of female education was so widely and systematically taken up in the city of Amritsar.

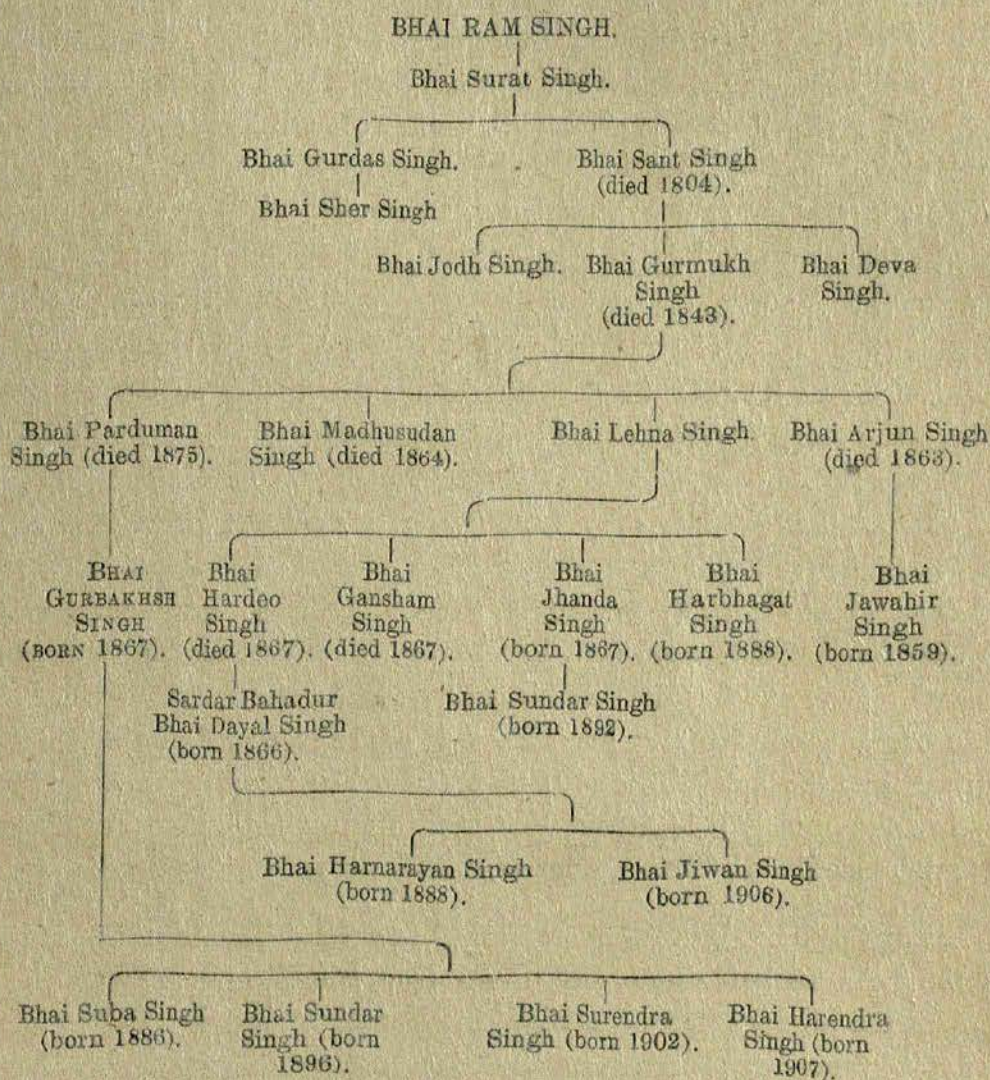


Gurdit Singh, eldest son of Sardar Mangal Singh, in February 1858 joined Colonel Abbott at Hoshiarpur when that officer was raising a force of cavalry for service in Oudh. Gurdit Singh was made Risaldar, and served in the Oudh Mounted Police to the complete satisfaction of his superior officers until October 1859, when, on the reduction of the force, he returned to Amritsar, where he was made an Inspector of Police. He retired in 1887 on a pension of Rs. 1,200 per annum. He was a Municipal Commissioner, an Honorary Magistrate and a Provincial Darbari. He died in 1900 and was succeeded by his eldest surviving nephew, Bishan Singh, son of Suchet Singh. Bishan Singh is an Inspector of Police and a Divisional Darbari. The *jagir* of Rs. 3,600, granted to Sardar Mangal Singh in perpetuity, is now divided equally between Bishan Singh and his cousin Sandar Singh. The latter is a B. A. of the Punjab University and the author of an account of the Ramgarhia family, and of a guide to the Golden Temple. His father, Sher Singh, was for some years a Deputy Inspector of Police. Suchet Singh, father of Bishan Singh, was a Munsif.

Several of the descendants of Sardar Jasa Singh have taken service in the army and police.



BHAIR GURBAKHSH SINGH



The ancestors of Bhai Gurbakhsh Singh resided at Chiniot in the Jhang district, and several of them at different times entered the service of the Muhammadan chiefs of Multan; but the early history of the family is in no way important. Ram Singh became a Sikh and a follower of Guru Gobind Singh. He was a zealous preacher of the Sikh faith, in his own part of the country, so much so that the Multan authorities grew alarmed and ordered his arrest; but he received timely information, and was able to escape to Amritsar. The Multan Governor took Surat Singh, the only son of Ram Singh, into his service, and the father, thinking all danger to be



past, returned home, where he died shortly afterwards. Sarat Singh then left Multan and wandered about the country as his father had done, preaching the Sikh faith; and his conduct excited the same suspicions. He contrived to get away to Amritsar with most of his property, and was soon patronized by the chiefs, who were at that time becoming powerful, and was placed in charge of the building of the Darbar Sahib, the Sikh temple at Amritsar. In the Jullundur Doab he acquired a small *jagir*, where he built a fort, and then returned to Amritsar, where he died.

In 1806 Maharaja Ranjit Singh conquered the plain portion of the Jullundur Doab; but he allowed Sant Singh to retain his *jagir*, and he appointed him to succeed his father in the superintendence of repairs and decorations of the Darbar Sahib. Bhai Sant Singh was no contemptible soldier, and on several occasions he served with credit. During the campaign of 1821 the Maharaja was engaged in the siege of a small fort on the way to Mankera. Suddenly the sky grew dark, and a violent storm came on. Ranjit Singh was caught by a furious blast of wind and thrown into the ditch from which the earth for the batteries had been excavated. Sant Singh saw his fall and, knowing that it is an ill wind that blows nobody any good, sprang into the ditch and, lifting the Maharaja in his arms, carried him in triumph to his tent. For this service he received *jagirs* in the Amritsar and Sialkot districts to the value of Rs. 6,800. Whether this story be false or true, it is certain that Sant Singh's *jagirs* were numerous, and that he stood high in the favour of the Maharaja.

About this time Bhai Gurdas Singh, who had been a reader of the *Granth* in the Darbar Sahib, died; and Sant Singh, in grief for his loss, determined to give up worldly affairs and devote himself to reading and expounding the scriptures. In the room of his father came to Court Gurmukh Singh, who soon became as great a favourite as Sant Singh had been. Bhai Sant Singh was called Gyani (one who meditates on divine things), and was held in much respect till his death. He wrote a commentary on the *Ramayana*, and a treatise on the rite of the *Pauhal*, or Sikh baptism.

When Parduman Singh was thirteen, the Maharaja took him into his service, and gave him the *jagir* of Kaliwal, worth Rs. 1,100. Bhai Gurmukh Singh had not enjoyed much influence during the life-time of Ranjit Singh, for his enemy, Bhai Ram Singh, was high in the favour of



the Maharaja. With Nao Nihal Singh he had still less influence; and when the prince was killed he took up the cause of Prince Sher Singh warmly, for the principal reason that Ram Singh was leader of the rival party of Mai Chand Kaur.

When Sher Singh became Maharaja he did not forget the services of Gurmukh Singh, whom he treated with great consideration, and to whom he gave large *jagirs*. But the real power was kept by Raja Dhian Singh, the Minister, in his own hands. The Maharaja, though he hated Dhian Singh, and knew his unpopularity with the nation, could not get rid of him. He, however, played off Gurmukh Singh against him; and the Bhai, from his religious character and long friendship with the Maharaja, could not be excluded from the presence. But otherwise, the contest between the statesmen and the priest was most unequal. Gurmukh Singh was supported by no powerful party; he was without character or ability; while Raja Dhian Singh was the ablest man of his day, subtle, plausible, cautious, though bold even to audacity in attacking and destroying his declared enemies.

Throughout the reign of Sher Singh, the Bhai intrigued against Raja Dhian Singh and joined in the Sindhanwalia conspiracy against his life. When Raja Hira Singh, son of the murdered Minister, rose to power, he, at the instigation of Bhai Ram Singh and Misra Lal Singh, arrested Gurmukh Singh with his friend Misra Beli Ram, the *Toshakhania*, and made them over for custody to Shaikh Imam-ud-din Khan, by whom they were put to death. Bhai Ram Singh was a far abler man than his rival Gurmukh Singh, but of no higher character. Both were unscrupulous and scheming men, and both made religion a cloak for their ambition and intrigue.

After the death of Gurmukh Singh, all the estates of the family were confiscated, and their houses and personal property seized. Bhai Parduman Singh and his brothers were imprisoned at Amritsar, placed in irons, and treated with the greatest severity. The religious bodies of the city made great efforts to obtain their release; and, at last, Parduman Singh contrived to escape, and with his youngest brother Arjun Singh fled to Ludhiana, where he remained under protection of the British Government till the murder of Hira Singh allowed him to return to Lahore. The four brothers obtained the release of a portion of their *jagirs* in the Amritsar district,



amounting to Rs. 5,488. Bhai Parduman Singh then set out to Hardwar to perform his father's funeral rites, and was promised that on his return the other *jagirs* of Gurmukh Singh should be released. On his return his houses at Amritsar were made over to him, and he would have probably recovered the rest of the property had not the war with the English commenced while his case was still pending, followed by the annexation of the country in 1849. The *jagir* of Rs. 5,488 at Mochal and Kuler Ghuma was released for the lives of the brothers, subject to payment of one-quarter revenue. The British Government could do no more for the family. Bhai Gurmukh Singh had acquired his large possessions as much by his intrigues as his sanctity. He played for a high stake, wealth and political power, and lost; and although the Sikh Government, and especially the army, filled with remorse for the murder of the Bhai, which their own evil passions had allowed, would probably have again placed his family in an influential position, yet the British Government could not be expected to feel either sympathy or remorse.

Bhai Parduman Singh accompanied Sardar Lehna Singh Majithia to Benares in 1853. He was afterwards appointed Superintendent of the repairs of the Darbar Sahib at Amritsar, and had charge of *jagirs* to the amount of Rs. 4,000 per annum, released in perpetuity for the support of the temple. He was a man of great energy and public spirit, and took a keen interest in all that concerned the affairs of the Darbar Sahib and the city generally. He was a Member of the Board of Honorary Magistrates of Amritsar. He died in 1875.

Bhai Gurbakhsh Singh has been recognized as his father's successor, and has received the vacant chair in Provincial Darbar. He was carefully educated under the Court of Wards, and passed the Entrance Examination of the Punjab University. Three-fourths of his father's *jagir*, of Rs. 868 per annum, has been continued to Gurbakhsh Singh for life, and an annual pension of Rs. 240 was granted to his mother.

The other property belonging to the family consists of a large garden in Amritsar, a *Bungah* at the Golden Temple, some shops in different parts of the city, besides a house at Hardwar, about 35 *bighas* of land in Amritsar tahsil and a grant of 200 acres on the Sharakpur branch of the Chenab Canal. Bhai Gurbakhsh Singh also succeeded to the charge, held by his father, of the works and repairs to the Golden Temple, as well as to



the administration of the *jagir* granted by Government for this purpose. The Bhai went to England in 1897, and in 1900 was called to the Bar. His eldest son, Suba Singh, married a grand-daughter of Sardar Jhanda Singh of Butala in the Gujranwala district.

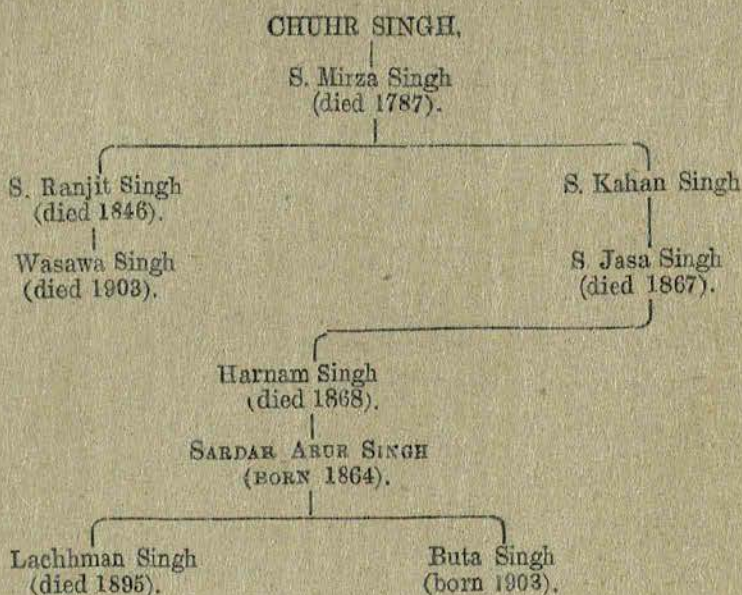
Bhai Arjun Singh died in 1863. His son Jawahir Singh enjoyed an allowance from Government of Rs. 100 per annum, which ceased when he attained his majority. Arjun Singh's widow receives a pension of Rs. 250 per annum from the Amritsar treasury.

Madhusudan Singh entered the service in 1857 as a Jamadar of ten sowars, raised by his brother. He was present at the capture of mutineers at Ajnala in the same year, and, having been made a Risaldar, was sent to Thanesar, where he died in 1864. His widow was given a life-pension of Rs. 250 per annum.

Lehna Singh, the remaining brother, was a Naib-tahsildar; but, owing to domestic bereavements, he retired from the service. His son Jhanda Singh is a pleader and has a good practice at Ambala. His grandson Dayal Singh, son of Hardeo Singh, is in the Criminal Investigation Department where he has reached the grade of Inspector and received the title of Sardar Bahadur and the Royal Victorian Medal. In 1908 he was presented by the Agent to the Governor-General in Central India with a sword of honour and a certificate, in recognition of his uniformly excellent work.



SARDAR ARUR SINGH NAUSHAHRIA.



Like the Majithia chiefs, Sardar Arur Singh is of the Shergil Jat tribe. Chaudhri Sarwani, the fifteenth in descent from Sher, the founder of the tribe, built the village of Naushahra, otherwise known as Raipur Sarwani, during the reign of the Emperor Shah Jahan, and was permitted to hold it rent-free as remuneration for collecting the revenues of the surrounding districts. For several generations the family held the office of Chaudhri, paying the revenue into the Imperial treasury, until Mirza Singh joined the confederacy of Sardars Jai Singh and Hakikat Singh Kanhaya, about 1752, and obtained, as his share of the conquered territory, the villages of Ratangarh, Uchak, Bhor, Bhikuchak, Rampur, Saluwal, Malkana and several others, worth Rs. 15,000 per annum.

Mirza Singh died in 1787, and Sardar Jaimal Singh, son of Hakikat Singh, unmindful of the many and great services of the deceased, resumed the larger portion of his estates; and Sardar Fateh Singh Kanhaya still further reduced them. When, however, the sons of Mirza Singh grew up, Sardar Nadhan Singh Kanhaya granted them Madhupur and Saluwal in the Hoshiarpur district, worth Rs. 1,500; and Mai Sada Kaur, the mother-in-law of Ranjit Singh, gave to Kahan Singh the villages of Bhogar, Barialah and Kohala, worth Rs. 2,000.



When Ranjit Singh seized the possessions of the *Kanhaya Misal*, Kahan Singh lost the last-named villages; but he was made an officer in the irregular cavalry, and fought with his regiment at Kasur and in the Kangra expedition of 1809. When Sardar Desa Singh Majithia was made Governor of all the hill districts between the Beas and the Sutlej, Kahan Singh was placed under his orders; and from that time both he and his son Jasa Singh remained in the service of the Majithia chiefs. They accompanied them in the field; filled civil offices under them; and their history differs in no important respect from that of their feudal lords.

Sardar Jasa Singh had for two years charge of the Sikh temple at Amritsar, under Sardar Lehna Singh Majithia. After Lehna Singh's departure for Benares, Jasa Singh remained in the employ of the Lahore Darbar; but on the annexation of the Punjab he was thrown out of employment, and his cash pension of Rs. 770 resumed. He held *jagirs* to the value of Rs. 2,800, chiefly in the Gurdaspur district, at Malkana, Hayati, Salawal, Bahrapur, Malkawala, Ratangarh and Shergarh, besides two wells and a garden at Naushahra Naugal, where he usually resided. These *jagirs* are upheld in perpetuity to the family.

Harnam Singh, the only son of Sardar Jasa Singh, was a Deputy Inspector of Police. He died in 1868. Ranjit Singh, brother of Kahan Singh, was never under the Majithia chiefs. He was, soon after the death of his father, made a Commandant of Cavalry in Raja Hira Singh's brigade, inheriting a half share of his father's estate. He served at Multan, Bannu, Peshawar and elsewhere, but was not a man of any note. He was killed in 1846, leaving one son, Wasawa Singh, then a child six months old.

Harnam Singh left a son, Arur Singh, who at the time of his father's death was four years of age. His property was brought under the Court of Wards, and was administered successively by the late Sardar Gulab Singh Bhagowalia and Ajit Singh of Atari. He was educated at the Government High School in Amritsar and attained his majority in 1885. In 1888 he was made an Honorary Magistrate of the second class at Naushahra with powers over 133 villages in Kathu-Nangal Thana, and in 1907 he was given the powers of a Magistrate of the first



class in the same district. He is a Provincial Darbari and Manager of the Golden Temple, a position to which considerable influence and responsibility is attached. On his cousin Wasawa Singh's death in 1903, Arur Singh inherited all his property. He owns *jagirs* worth some Rs. 1,500, chiefly in Gurdaspur, 33 squares of land on the Chenab Canal and about 800 *ghumaos* in Amritsar.

His daughter married Sardar Mangal Singh, *Rais* of Kot Shera in Gujranwala, who is an Honorary Magistrate.



SUGHIA RAM.

Kawal Nain.

Chaju Mal
(died 1822).

Raja Rallia Ram
(died 1864).

Jhinda Mal.

Amin Chand
(dead).

Mel Chand.

Ajodhya Prasa
(died 1832).

Raja Sir Sahib
Dayal, K.C.S.I.
(died 1885).

Rai Gyan Chand
(died 1878).

Shankar Nath
(died 1887)

S. Harcharan
Das
(died 1884).

Jai Gopal
(died 1883).

Bansi Lal
(died 1883).

Balram
(died 1836).

Partab Chand.
(died 1902).

Prem Chand
(born 1894).

Thakur
Har Kishan Singh
(born 1866).

Thakur
Mahan Chand
(born 1870).

Three sons.

Ram Singh
(born 1882).

Ripudaman
Singh
(born 1899)

Surendra
Singh
(born 1906).

Misra
Devi Sahai
(born 1852)

Daya Sahai
(born 1885).

Rajendra Sahai
(born 1904).

Misra Jwala Sahai
(born 1865).

Sheo Sahai Davendra Sahai
(born 1887). (born 1906).

Davendra Sah
(born 1906).

Bhagat Ram
(born 1850).

Six sons.

Dina Nath.
Two generations.

Vishan Nath.

Basant Nath.
Two generations

Sheo Nath.
(died 1878).

Banwari Nath.
Two sons.

Sardar Bahadur Lachhmi Sahai is of a respectable Brahman family, whose ancestors were in the service of the Emperors of Delhi. Sughia



Ram is said to have defended the life of Muhammad Shah at the risk of his own ; for a Rajput assassin, coming one day into the royal Darbar, was about to attack the Emperor, when Sughia Ram threw himself upon him and despatched him, though not without himself receiving a severe wound. His son Kawal Nain emigrated to Lahore, which was in his time not a very desirable place of residence, from the invasions of Nadir Shah and Ahmad Shah, and the ever-increasing depredations of the Sikhs, who were rapidly gaining strength and boldness. In a fight with the Afghans no less than twenty-six of his relatives fell ; and Kawal Nain himself escaped with difficulty. He died young, leaving an only son, Chaju Mal, then a boy of about ten years of age.

When Chaju Mal grew up, he entered the service of Sardar Jai Singh Kanhaya, chief of the most powerful of the Sikh confederacies. He received a command in the Sardar's force, and accompanied most of the expeditions against the neighbouring chiefs. He was present at the battle of Achal in 1783, when Gurbakhsh Singh, son of Sardar Jai Singh, was killed fighting against Jasa Singh Ramgarhia and Mahan Singh Sukarchakia. After this he was made *Chaudhri* of the Kanhaya Katra, or quarter in the town of Amritsar then rising into importance ; and on the death of Jai Singh he still held the post under that chief's daughter-in-law, Mai Sada Kaur. The neighbouring Sardars thought that the principality ruled by a woman must be an easy prey ; but the lady, well backed by Chaju Mal, held out bravely. Several times had the latter to defend his Katra against assault, and on one occasion in repulsing the Ramgarhias he received two spear wounds. He reduced the customs duties by more than a half, and thus attracted many merchants, who settled in the Kanhaya Katra. The young Ranjit Singh, who after his marriage with the daughter of Sada Kaur used to visit Amritsar cautiously, for fear of his enemies the Bhangis, was accustomed to put up with Chaju Mal and received much assistance from him in obtaining possession of the city in 1803. With Rama Nand he directed the collection of the customs at Amritsar till 1813, when he was sent to Kangra, where he remained three years, and then obtained permission to make a pilgrimage to Hardwar and Benares. On his return in 1820 he did not again engage in public business ; for the Maharaja had confiscated all the possessions of Sada Kaur, on whose account Chaju Mal had first entered Ranjit Singh's service. He died in 1822.



His eldest son Rallia Ram had received an unusually good education. He was well acquainted with Sanskrit, Persian and Hindi; and had, besides, a fair knowledge of mathematics and physical science. In 1811 he was placed in charge of the Amritsar district, and showed great energy in the suppression of dacoity and highway robbery. Ranjit Singh was so pleased with his zeal that he made him in 1812 chief of the Department of Customs. At this time neither Kashmir, Multan, nor the Derajat had been conquered; but, as each was acquired, it was placed under the management, as far as the customs were concerned, of Rallia Ram. Before his appointment there had been no regular system of collecting the customs; but each chief got as much out of merchants passing through his territories as he possibly could. Rallia Ram largely increased the revenue from the salt mines of Pind Dadan Khan, and introduced the *rawana* or passport system.

In 1821, when the Sikh army was engaged in the Mankera campaign, Sardar Jai Singh Atariwala rose in rebellion, and Misra Rallia Ram with other Sardars was despatched against him. With a considerable force he attacked Kalar Kahar, the stronghold of the rebel Sardar, reduced it, and forced Jai Singh to fly to Dost Muhammad Khan of Kabul for protection. In 1830, Rallia Ram, whose energy and probity had made him enemies at Court, fell into disgrace; chiefly, it is said, through the influence of Kirpa Ram Chopra, and was ordered to pay a fine of a lakh of rupees. He was in 1833 made keeper of the Records. In 1841 he discovered at Makhad in the Rawalpindi district a sulphur mine, which so pleased Maharaja Sher Singh that he granted him a *jagir* of Rs. 11,000 in the Jandiala *ilaka*, with a Persian title of honour.

Sahib Dayal, the second son of Misra Rallia Ram, had entered the Sikh service as a munshi in the Customs Department under his father; and in 1832 he was transferred to the Paymaster's office of the regular army. In 1839 he was made chief of the Customs of Jullundur and held this appointment till the close of the Sutlej campaign. After the separation of the large district of Jhang from the province of Multan, of which it formed nearly a third, in 1846, Misra Rallia Ram was appointed its *Kardar*, and both he and Sahib Dayal were appointed to revise the system of imposts. In August 1847 both father and son received Persian titles of honour, and in September of the same year the whole customs of



the country were placed under their superintendence. They were to render accounts every fifteen days, one copy direct to the Resident and one to the Darbar, and had authority to appoint and remove all subordinate officials. The chief burden of the new arrangements fell upon Misra Sahib Dayal ; for his father was now an old man, and the greatest credit is due to him for the zeal and ability with which he carried out a system which must, in many particulars, have been opposed to his own ideas of finance.

Under the old Sikh administration duty was levied on almost every article whatever. Little care was taken to discriminate between luxuries and necessities ; or equitably to adjust the burden of taxation between the rich and the poor. Fuel, vegetables, corn, ghi and other necessities to the poorest man had all to pay duty. The taxation was not only ill-adjusted, but was also realized in the most vexatious manner. The country was covered with customs-houses, at which the traveller or merchant was subjected to insolence, extortion and delay. Every town had its own peculiar dues. An article brought into the town must pay import duty ; a second duty was demanded on its transfer to the shop ; and a third, if it were again exported into the country. Yet the advantage to the Government from the heaviness of the customs duties was in no way proportional to the vexation to the people and hindrance to commerce caused by them. Under forty-eight heads the customs yielded a gross revenue of Rs. 16,37,114 while the expense of collection was Rs. 1,10,000, or nearly seven per cent. The accounts of Diwan Mul Raj, who was the Manager of the salt mines of Pind Dadan Khan until they were placed under Rallia Ram, showed that out of returns of Rs. 8,18,820, thirty per cent was lost by wastage and expenses of management.

Under Major H. Lawrence, the Resident, and his brother John Lawrence, ably seconded by Misra Rallia Ram and Sahib Dayal, the whole system was changed. The custom houses, the transit and town dues were abolished. Three frontier lines were established : one along the Beas and the Sutlej ; one along the Indus ; and the third on the north-east frontier for the commerce of Kashmir. The new customs were limited to twenty-two articles, which were estimated to yield Rs. 13,04,822 at a cost of collection of Rs. 37,000, or less than 3 per cent. The new revenue was to be raised by Abkari licenses, a light toll on



ferries estimated to yield a lakh, and by better and more economical management of the salt mines. This immense relief to commerce was affected at a loss of only one-eighth of customs revenue. After the annexation the customs duties were abolished throughout the Punjab; but six years later the excise yielded six lakhs, and the salt revenue nineteen lakhs; and from the removal of restrictions to commerce, the country had increased in material prosperity to an unprecedented extent.

In November 1847 Misra Sahib Dayal received the title of *Mohsin-ud-daula*, *Bir Ber*. In June 1848, three months after the outbreak at Multan, Bhai Maharaj Singh, a disciple of the celebrated Bawa Bir Singh, having collected a large number of disaffected men, set out from the Manjha to join the rebel Mul Raj at Multan. None of the Sikh troops would attempt his arrest; but Misra Sahib Dayal, then *Kardar* of Jhang, where the population is Muhammadan, engaged that if Maharaj Singh could be driven in the Jhang direction, he would answer that he proceeded no further. This was fortunately effected. Some irregulars, with part of the 14th Dragoons, pursued the force of the Bhai; Langar Khan of Sahiwal, Malik Sahib Khan Tiwana and other Muhammadan chiefs hung on its rear; and by the time that the Bhai reached Jhang his force had diminished to twelve hundred exhausted men, who were attacked vigorously by Baba Mali Singh, Tahsildar, with the forces of Misra Sahib Dayal, and driven into the swollen Chenab, where more than half the number were drowned, and those who escaped the sword and the river were taken as prisoners to Lahore.

Throughout the war the services of Sahib Dayal and his father were important and numerous. They preserved order in the Rechna and in part of the Chaj Doab, and furnished large supplies of grain to the British army on its march. Sahib Dayal, when the rebel Sher Singh was marching up from Multan, seized upwards of two thousand head of mules, camels and bullocks belonging to the Raja, and thus materially checked the advance of the rebel army, if it did not alter the direction of its march. In November Misra Sahib Dayal was selected by the Resident to accompany the head-quarters camp of the British army on the part of the Darbar. In the performance of this duty the Misra showed the greatest intelligence and zeal. He procured excellent information of the movements of the enemy, and kept the army well supplied with provisions.



He afterwards, with Shaikh Imam-ud-din Khan, Sikandar Khan, Banda Khan and others, proceeded to join the force of Colonel Taylor, and on the submission of the principal rebels was useful in disarming the country.

On the annexation, the *jagir* of Rs. 1,100 of Rallia Ram, with a cash allowance of Rs. 6,900, was maintained to him for life ; Rs. 3,200 of the cash to descend to his son Shankar Nath. To Sahib Dayal was confirmed his *jagir* of Rs. 5,180, with a cash allowance of Rs. 2,800 for life. Of the *jagir*, Rs. 985 were to descend for three generations, and Rs. 1,200 were granted in perpetuity. Both Rallia Ram and Sahib Dayal were rich men. No one who ever held the farm of the salt mines failed to grow rich ; for the contractor paid a certain sum to Government annually, and might sell, as he pleased, at his own place and time. In the hands of so able a man as Rallia Ram the salt contract was a great source of wealth, though he in no way forgot his duty to the State, in regard for his personal interests. The Lahore Government had few servants so able as Rallia Ram and Sahib Dayal, and it had none as honest. They were, in the last corrupt days of the administration, almost the only men who manfully and faithfully did their duty, and who had the wisdom to understand and support the enlightened policy of the British Resident ; the only policy which could have saved the country from the evils that afterwards came upon it.

In 1849, both Rallia Ram and Sahib Dayal left the Punjab on a pilgrimage to the holy cities. Rallia Ram, who had been made Diwan by the Sikh Government of 1847, was in 1851 created a Raja ; and Sahib Dayal also received the same title. Never were honours better merited. Raja Rallia Ram never returned to the Punjab, but died at Benares in April 1864. Raja Sahib Dayal came back in 1851, and resided at Kishankot in the Gurdaspur district, a town of which he may be said to have been the founder, where he built a *sarai*, three temples, a tank and five wells. During the mutinies of 1857, Raja Sahib Dayal, by his advice and action, showed his loyalty to Government, and received a *khilat* of Rs. 1,000. In 1860 he received an additional grant in perpetuity of a *jagir* of Rs. 2,000. In February 1864 he was appointed a member of the Legislative Council of India, and took his seat in Calcutta, returning to the Punjab at the close of the session. In 1866 he was made a Knight Commander of the Star of India. He died at Amritsar in 1885, regretted by all classes. The Government of the Punjab published the following notification :—



"The Lieutenant-Governor has received with great regret information of the death of Raja Sahib Dayal, K.C.S.I., which took place at Amritsar on the 17th of January 1885. The British Government has thus lost a trusted friend, and the Province an eminent representative of the class of administrators who held office under the Sikh and British Governments in succession. Under both administrations, the abilities and honesty of the Raja were recognised by titles of distinction. A loyal and faithful counsellor, who from the first comprehended and supported the policy of the British Government, the Raja enjoyed as a public man the confidence of the State, and in his private capacity the honourable and well-earned repute of benevolence and liberality."

His two sons had died in their father's lifetime, and the family *jagir* passed to his grandson Thakur Harkishan Singh, son of Bansi Lal, who is a Provincial Darbari and the representative of this branch of the family. He resides at Kishankot, of which place he is an Honorary Magistrate. His brother Thakur Mahan Chand, after completing his education at the Aitchison College, was appointed an Honorary Magistrate in 1892, an Honorary Extra Assistant Commissioner in 1902 and a Member of the Punjab Legislative Council in 1906. He is a Provincial Darbari and was invited to the Delhi Coronation Darbar as an official guest, and received the Darbar Medal. He owns about 4,800 *bighas* of land in Amritsar district as well as squares in Lyallpur and resides at Amritsar, of which place he is Honorary Sub-Registrar. Balram, Raja Sir Sahib Dayal's second son, had no issue and consequently adopted his cousin, Partab Chand, son of Dina Nath. Partab Chand died in 1902 and his son Prem Chand has succeeded to Balram's estate, comprising about 800 *bighas* of land, as well as other property, in the Amritsar district.

The other sons of Raja Rallia Ram may be briefly noticed. Ajodhya Prasad, the eldest, was of a retiring disposition, and employed himself in devotion. He died young, and his son Jai Gopal was employed under Rallia Ram in the Customs Department. Jai Gopal died in 1883. His son Dina Nath is a Tahsildar in the Lahore district. Two others of his sons, Vishan Nath and Basant Nath, settled in Benares. The youngest, Banwari Nath, received a pension of Rs. 120 per annum until he attained his majority.

Gyan Chand was, in the Maharaja's time, at the head of the office of salt revenue at Pind Dadan Khan under Raja Gulab Singh. Under the



British Government he was appointed Tahsildar of Pind Dadan Khan, but retired in 1854 and settled at Amritsar, where in 1862 he was appointed an Honorary Magistrate. He died at Amritsar in 1878. Sardar Bahadur Lachhmi Sahai, his elder son, a retired Extra Assistant Commissioner, may be regarded as the leading member of the family. He was made a Sardar Bahadur in 1894 and is a Provincial Darbari. The family property was divided between him and his brother Bhagat Ram, a *muafi* of 100 *bighas* in tahsil Pind Dadan Khan being included in the former's share. He also obtained six squares of land in the Lyallpur district and is *lambardar* of Chak No. 63, which has been called after him Garh Lachhmi Sahai. He was invited to the Delhi Coronation Darbar as an official guest and received the Darbar Medal. His elder son, Devi Sahai, was in the service of the Kashmir State, but has now left it. His younger son, Jwala Sahai, B.A., is now an Extra Judicial Assistant Commissioner and has been working as a District Judge for some years. Bhagat Ram, Gyan Chand's second son, has retired from the service of the Kashmir State, in which he was employed for many years.

Shankar Nath first received an appointment in the Amritsar Mint, and was then made Assistant in Hazara district. During the rebellion of 1848-49, he, like all his brothers, did good service, and preserved a semblance of order about Batala, Dinanagar and Pathankot. He died in 1887 at Benares, where he had been residing for some years. His sons were, on his death, granted pensions of Rs. 100 per annum each.

Sardar Harcharan Das began public life as an Assistant in the Customs Department; but during the *Wazirat* of Raja Hira Singh he was made Commandant of seven hundred horse in the Mnl Rajia Dera. In 1848 he was appointed by the Darbar *Adalati* or Judge of Lahore, with the honorary title of *Rukn-ud-Daula*. On annexation he held Rs. 10,000, which was confirmed to him while holding the office of Extra Assistant Commissioner, which had been conferred on him in place of the Judgeship. The Sardar resigned in 1852, and his *jagir* was reduced to Rs. 3,998. He lived at Amritsar, between which city and Lahore he, at his own expense, built a handsome *sarai*. The family have always been known for benevolence and liberality, which is testified to by the many works of public utility and convenience which have been constructed at their expense in many parts of the Punjab. Besides those already mentioned, the *sarai* near the Rambagh gate of Amritsar was

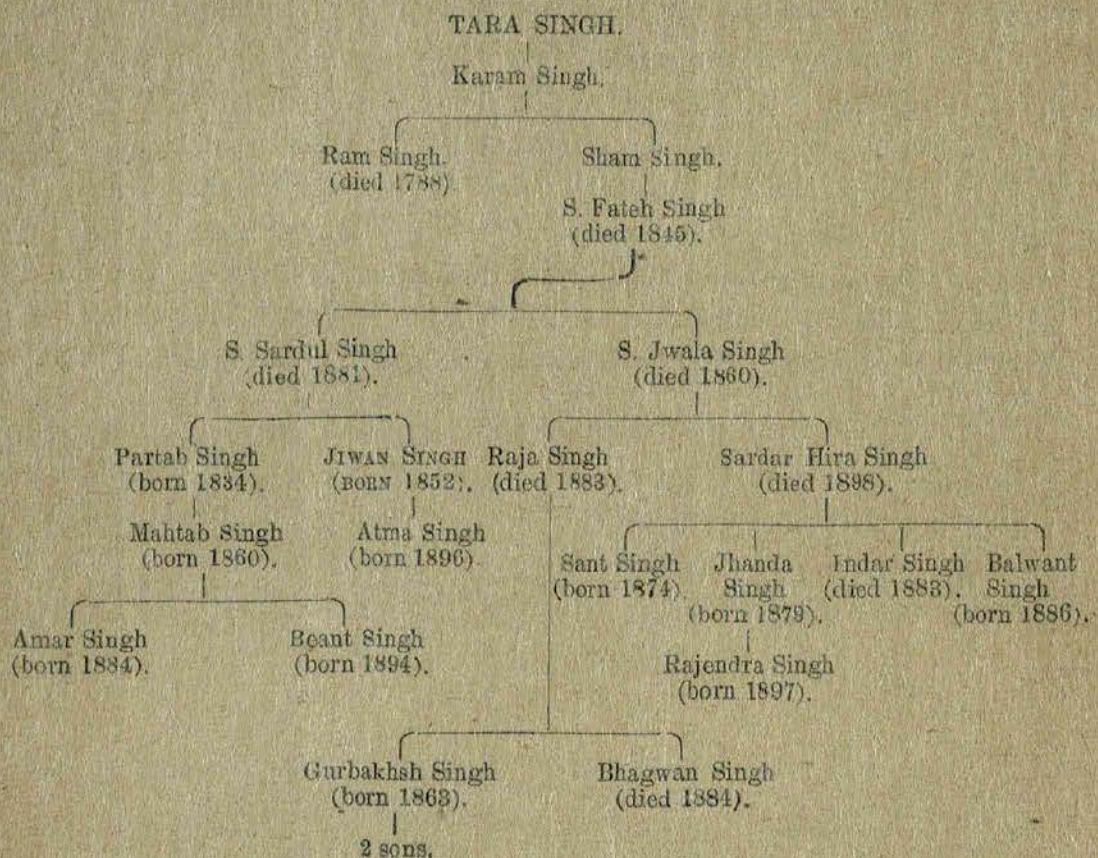


built by Raja Rallia Ram; also a *sarai* and temple by the Nagrahwai ferry on the Beas, and a masonry tank in the city of Amritsar.

Sardar Harcharan Das died in 1884. His *jagirs* aggregating Rs. 3,998 in the Amritsar and Gurdaspur districts, lapsed on his death. He had also been in receipt of an allowance of Rs. 1,200 per annum from the Kapurthala State. The Sardar was one of the leading men in Amritsar, of which city he was an Honorary Magistrate. Of his sons Mokham Chand has served the Kapurthala State in various capacities and now resides in Amritsar as *Vakil* to the Kapurthala Darbar on Rs. 1,200 per annum. Kishor Chand is employed as a Railway Raj *Vakil* in Udaipur.



JIWAN SINGH MAN.



Sardar Jiwan Singh Man is of the same descent as the Man Sardars of Mughalchak in the Gujranwala district. Some account of the Man Jat tribe will be found in the history of the Mughalchak family. The branch of the Man tribe to which Jiwan Singh belongs had for many generations been resident at Mananwala in the Amritsar district, when the village having been plundered and destroyed about the year 1720, Tara Singh abandoned it with his whole family, and settled at Narli with his brothers-in-law. The Sikhs were at this time becoming powerful; and Tara Singh with a band of horsemen, composed chiefly of members of his own clan, seized and held, till his death, several villages in the Amritsar district. Karam Singh, his son, was an enterprising man, and was far more successful than his father in the art of plunder and annexation. He joined the Bhangi confederacy, and acquired *jagirs* in the Labore, Sialkot and Amritsar districts. He rebuilt Mananwala and took up his residence there.