



Karam Singh was succeeded by his two sons, Ram Singh and Sham Singh. These young men, about 1780, left the Bhangi *Misal* and went over to Sardar Mahan Singh Sukarchakia, by whom they were very well treated, and allowed a share both in his fighting and his plunder. Ram Singh does not seem to have had any enmity against his old associates, for he married his only child, Bibi Sada Kaur, to a Bhangi chief, Sardar Sobha Singh Haluwalia, builder of Kila Sobha Singh in the Sialkot district, and son of Sardar Bhag Singh Haluwalia. In 1788 Ram Singh died, and his younger brother Sham Singh was allowed to succeed to the whole estate. In 1790, however, Sardar Mahan Singh confiscated all but Mananwala and Raliabadho, worth Rs 20,000 per annum, which Sham Singh enjoyed till his death, giving no service during the life of Mahan Singh; but under Ranjit Singh, furnishing a contingent of fifteen horsemen.

Sardar Fateh Singh had been early introduced to Ranjit Singh by his father; and when Prince Kharak Singh was a few years old, Fateh Singh was appointed especially for his service. The Sardar served in the Kangra campaign of 1809; at Daska, where he was wounded in the shoulder; at Chunian, where he was wounded in his hand; and at Sahiwal, where, after the capture of the town from Fateh Khan, he was appointed Commandant, and where he remained for a year. In 1811 he received from Kharak Singh, from his personal estates, a *jagir* worth Rs. 1,60,000, subject to the service of three hundred horse. Other *Jagirdars*, whose contingents aggregated seven hundred men, were also placed under his command, and he was sent to Jammu to reduce some insurgents to order; and after this, he was sent with other Sardars to Kulu and Kangra. He fought at the battle of Attock; and in the miserable Kashmir expedition of 1814, he, with Diwan Jiwan Mal, accompanied the detachment of Ram Dayal on the part of Prince Kharak Singh. Soon after this Sardar Fateh Singh was again sent to Jammu to put down an insurrection. In this he was successful, and brought in all the ringleaders to Lahore. But Bhai Ram Singh, the *Mukhtar* or confidential agent of Prince Kharak Singh, who hated Fateh Singh on account of his power and influence, concocted a plot to destroy his reputation.

He induced Gulab Singh and Dhian Singh (afterwards Raja) to murder the two chief ringleaders, by name Trehdu and Suthra, who had





been concerned in the murder of their uncle Mian Mota, and to release the other insurgents, who fled to their native hills and again raised disturbances. At this, as Bhai Ram Singh anticipated, the Prince was very angry, and resumed the *jagir* which he had given to Fateh Singh. The Maharaja, however, took pity upon the disgraced favourite, and gave him a *jagir* of Rs. 35,000 and a cash allowance of Rs. 15,000, subject to the service of one hundred and twenty-five horsemen. At Multan, in 1818, the reduction of the fort of Kot Bajai Khan was entrusted to the Sardar, and he was successful in taking it. He accompanied the Kashmir expedition of 1819, and the next year crossed the Sutlej on a visit to his estate at Mahlan. The Maharaja, who was marching towards Rawalpindi, summoned him; but he only sent his son Sardul Singh with the contingent. This conduct irritated Ranjit Singh, who, suspecting that the Sardar was intriguing with the English, resumed all his *jagirs*, with the exception of Mananwala.

It was not till the capture of Mankera, in December 1821, when Fateh Singh behaved gallantly, that he was taken again into favour, received new *jagirs*, and was made Commandant of the captured fort. He went with the Maharaja to Peshawar in 1823, and afterwards accompanied the two Bannu expeditions of Prince Sher Singh and Prince Kharak Singh, while his son acted for him at Mankera.

In 1829 the Sardar was again placed in the suite of Prince Kharak Singh; and two years later his son was recalled from Mankera and placed in command of a troop of cavalry. In 1831 he accompanied Prince Sher Singh and General Ventura against the celebrated Sayad Ahmad, who had lost his influence with the Afghans, Trans-Indus, and had taken up his head-quarters at Balakot in Hazara, where he trusted for support to the tribes of Dhamtaur and Pakhli and to his Hindustani followers. Here he was attacked by the Sikhs; the fort of Balakot was taken, and the Sayad himself with most of his followers slain, though it was afterwards declared that he escaped, the river opening to receive him. In 1834 the Sardar went to Peshawar in the suite of Prince Nao Nihal Singh, and afterwards remained on duty at Bannu, Tank and Peshawar till the death of Maharaja Ranjit Singh. When that event took place, Fateh Singh was at Peshawar with Nao Nihal





Singh; and Sardul Singh was at Tank. From the new Maharaja the Sardar received additional *jagirs* at Kot Bari Khan, Gujranwala, worth Rs. 30,000, which made his estates amount to Rs. 83,000 subject to the service of one hundred horse.

Sardul Singh served under General Ventura in 1840-41 in the Mandi campaign, and at the siege and capture of Kamlagarh. In April 1841 Fateh Singh, with seven hundred horse, was appointed to escort ten lakhs of treasure from Ferozepore to Peshawar, *en route* for Kabul. In February 1845, when Raja Lal Singh, after long altercations with his rival Sardar Jawahir Singh, whom he feared to leave behind at Lahore, consented to head the army proceeding against Raja Gulab Singh at Jammu, Fateh Singh Man was one of the chiefs whom he insisted upon taking with him. Soon after joining the army, Lal Singh sent Fateh Singh with some others to negotiate. The envoys were received by Gulab Singh with all honour, and were amused for some days with the alternate promises of submission and threats of defiance, which the Raja had always in store for such occasions. At length they returned with the declaration of Gulab Singh that he would abide by the terms of the treaty concluded by his agents in Lahore. He denied the amount of the Lahore claims, but said that he would pay them if proved; and for this purpose requested that *Wazir* Bachna,\* Hira Nand and Ganpat Rai, confidential servants of his nephew Hira Singh, upon whose authority the claims had been made, should be sent to him. The envoys, accordingly, with these three men returned to Jammu.

Besides Fateh Singh Man, the deputation to Jammu consisted of Baba Mihan Singh, an old Bedi of great sanctity, Ratan Chand Dogal, one of the most influential of the *Mutsadi* or *Munshi* party, and Sardar Sher Singh Atariwala. They remained at Jammu for some days, but could not come to any definite terms; for Gulab Singh was carrying on separate negotiations with the Sikh army, whose *Panchayats* were also in Jammu.

\* Until the death of Maharaja Sher Singh, Bachna, a Jat of Jandiala in the Shekhupura Pargana, was manager of Raja Hira Singh's hill estates under Pandit Jala. When the Pandit went to Lahore, on Hira Singh becoming Minister, Bachna succeeded him in the hills with the title of *Wazir*. When Raja Gulab Singh gave over Jasrota to the Darbar in January 1845, Bachna remained to give over the treasure, and was then summoned to Lahore. There he took advantage of the discontent excited by the news of Sikh excesses in the hills to get himself re-appointed Governor of Jasrota, under the Darbar, and was on his way to take up his post when summoned to Jammu. He was an able man, much loved by the hill people for his mildness and honesty.





At last, on the 28th February, after a violent altercation between *Wazir* Bachna and the Raja, the latter gave four lakhs of rupees as an earnest of the full discharge of the just claims against him, and the deputation took its leave. Passing through a hedge of thorns, which had been thrown round the town of Jammu, the envoys were fired at by a body of the Raja's troops. Sardar Fateh Singh and *Wazir* Bachna were killed on the spot, and Diwan Ganpat Rai, who was on the same elephant with them, was mortally wounded, and died the next day. Raja Gulab Singh protested his innocence and his grief, and that the catastrophe had happened contrary to his wishes and his orders. The Bawa, Sher Singh and Ratan Chand he detained at Jammu as hostages and as negotiators.

That this assassination was planned by Gulab Singh there is no shadow of doubt. He had, it is true, no hostile feelings against Fateh Singh, but the Sardar was upon the same elephant with the man he had determined to destroy; and as Mian Uttam Singh died with Nao Nihal Singh, so did Fateh Singh with *Wazir* Bachna.

When Bachna had been re-appointed Governor of Jasrota, Gulab Singh thought that it was the same as if he himself had recovered possession. But he was disappointed. Pandit Jala had taught Bachna to hate and distrust Gulab Singh; and when he joined the deputation, the Raja saw that his fancied friend was entirely in the interests of the Darbar. He knew that, as an enemy, Bachna could do him vast injury; for he was so popular in the hills that he could have brought over Gulab Singh's Rajput troops to the side of the Sikhs; and the Raja consequently determined on his destruction.

The death of Sardar Fateh Singh was much lamented by the chiefs; but the army, though it was convenient to use his death as a weapon against Gulab Singh, did not at this time care much for Sardars, certainly not for men of the old school like Fateh Singh, who looked upon the regular army as a most dangerous innovation, and whose traditions were all of the days of the Great Maharaja.

Two months later, when Raja Gulab Singh had been brought to Lahore, eleven lakhs of rupees, out of the sixty-eight lakhs which he was compelled to pay, was charged in the account as blood-money for the death of Sardar Fateh Singh.





In May 1845 Sardar Jawahir Singh confiscated the Rs. 30,000 *jagir* given to Fateh Singh by Maharaja Kharak Singh. Sardul Singh was at this time at Hassan Abdal, and in August of the same year he, with the Atariwala and other Sardars, recovered the fort of Attock from Prince Pashaura Singh. He fought in the Sutlej campaign; and in August 1846 Raja Lal Singh, the Minister, without any apparent cause, confiscated all his remaining *jagirs* with the exception of Mananwala, worth Rs. 3,000. Sardul Singh went to Simla to appeal to Major Lawrence, and accompanied that officer back to Lahore. After Lal Singh's deposition and banishment, the creditors of Sardar Fateh Singh pressed Sardul Singh for payment of his father's debts amounting to Rs. 1,25,000; and Major Lawrence induced the Darbar to allow him *jagirs* of Rs. 21,000, subject to the service of thirty sowars. Twenty of these sowars, however, were to be excused for five years; the sum allowed for their service, Rs. 6,000, being applied to the liquidation of the debt. On annexation the personal estates of the family, amounting to Rs. 10,500, were upheld for life, and Rs. 3,000 in perpetuity; Rs. 2,147 to the male issue of Sardul Singh, and Rs. 853 to the male issue of Jwala Singh.

Sardar Jwala Singh, who was not on good terms with Sardul Singh, died in 1860. Bibi Kako, their sister, who married Sardar Ajit Singh Sindhanwalia, on hearing the news of the death of her husband in the fort of Lahore, in September 1843, burnt herself with his clothes at Naorangabad. During the rebellion of 1848 Sardar Sardul Singh remained faithful to Government; and in 1857 did as much as his embarrassed circumstances would allow in raising horsemen for service in Hindustan.

Sardar Sardul Singh Man died in 1881. He had latterly taken no active part in public affairs, his time being fully occupied in domestic matters. Possessing a peculiar temper, he was often on bad terms with his sons and other relatives. His *jagir* of Rs. 7,500 lapsed on his death, with the exception of Rs. 2,147, which was continued to his two surviving sons, Partab Singh and Jiwan Singh. The sons also hold shares in the ancestral villages of Mananwala and Mehoka in the Amritsar district; as also in the village of Mananwala in tahsil Hafizabad, Gujranwala,





which was founded by their father. Jiwan Singh is now regarded as the representative of the family. He is a *lambardar* of Manauwala, a member of the Local and District Boards, an Honorary Magistrate and a Divisional Darbari. He holds by inheritance and purchase about 5,800 kanals of land in Amritsar including the garden in Amritsar city and the shares of the ancestral village above mentioned.

Jiwan Singh has been married four times. One of his wives was a daughter of Sardar Fateh Singh of Jullundur; the second a daughter of Sardar Uttam Singh, Inspector of Police in Montgomery; and another the daughter of Sardar Harnam Singh of *Mauza* Narendrapura in Patiala, a relative of the Patiala chief.

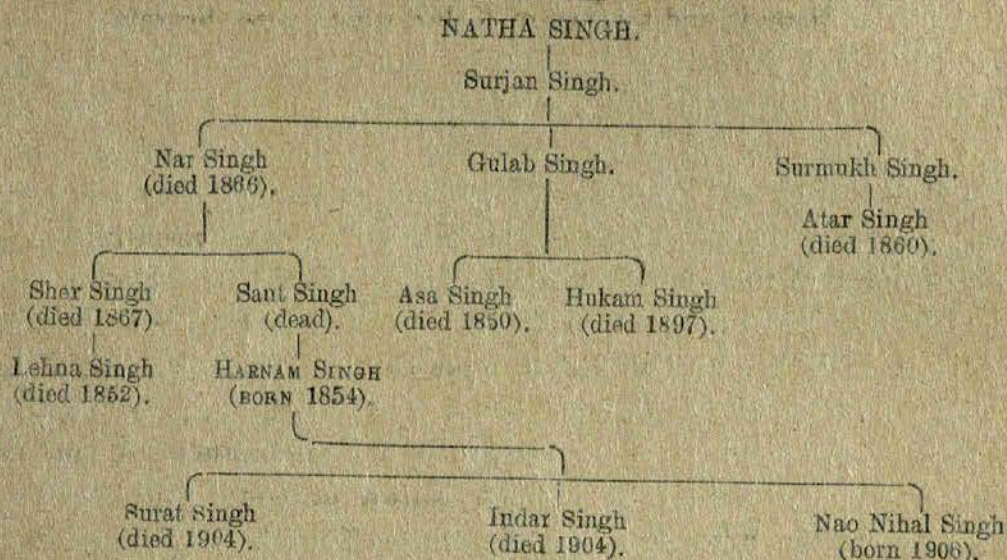
Partab Singh, the elder brother, holds about 1,450 kanals of land and is heavily in debt. His son Mahtab Singh married the daughter of Arjun Singh of *Mauza* Raipur in the Ludhiana district. Raja Singh and Hira Singh, sons of Jwala Singh, succeeded on the death of their father to his *jagir* of Rs. 853 in their ancestral villages of Mananwala and Mehoka. Raja Singh died in 1883. He was succeeded by his only surviving son Gurbakhsh Singh *alias* Fateh Muhammad. Hira Singh was a Member of the District Board, and Chairman of the Amritsar Local Board. He rendered good service when transport animals were being purchased during the Kabul War, and also on other occasions. He was a Divisional Darbari and died in 1898 leaving three sons, amongst whom his share of the property was divided. The eldest, Sant Singh, is a *lambardar* of Mananwala. The second son, Jhanda Singh, resides in Sind, where he has received a grant of land.

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## SARDAR HARNAM SINGH AIMAWALA.



About the year 1738 Natha Singh, an Upal Jat, left his home at Lakarki, in the Gurdaspur district, and, coming to Amritsar, rebuilt a ruined village to which, in defiance of the rights of the late inhabitants, he gave the name of Aima, signifying land held in proprietary right. His son Surjan Singh inherited not only this village, but the *jagirs* of his uncle Dal Singh, who had been slain in a quarrel with Sardar Sewa Singh Aulakhwala. These estates were of considerable size, comprising many villages in the Daska, Pasrur and Ajnala *parganas*.

In the famine year of 1783,\* Surjan Singh contrived to seize Chahar-bajwa in the Sialkot district from Brij Raj Deo, son of Raja Ranjit Deo. He was associated with the Bhangi *Misal*, and fought under Sardar Karam Singh. He died in 1799, and his eldest son Nar Singh, still a youth, joined Sardar Gulab Singh Bhangi, who was chief of the confederacy formed against Ranjit Singh soon after his capture of Lahore. An expedition was fitted out against him, which Nar Singh joined; but it was broken up by the death of Sardar Gulab Singh, from the effects of a prolonged debauch at Kothani.

Soon after this, in 1803, Nar Singh joined Ranjit Singh, and accompanied him in the Pindi Bhatian campaign, and later in the expedition

\* The famine of 1783 was the most terrible of any remembered in the Punjab. It was the last of three bad years; many thousands died of starvation, and many emigrated to Kashmir and Hindustan. The year is known by the people as the *San Chali* being the Sambat year 1840.





against the Bhangis and the fort of Kalar, which was bravely defended by Jodh Singh Atariwala. In 1804 he went with Ranjit Singh again against Raja Sansar Chand Katoch, who had tried to possess himself of a portion of the Jullundur Doab, but who was defeated near Hoshiarpur and driven back to the hills. The next expedition shared in by Nar Singh was that against Hafiz Ahmad Khan of Jhang, resulting in the imprisonment of that chief and the seizure of his estates. He served in the first unsuccessful campaign of Multan, and in both the Kashmir expeditions under Diwan Ram Dayal in the Dera of Prince Kharak Singh; and on the conquest of Kashmir he received a *jagir* of Rs. 14,000 at Samba in the Jammu territory. He fought in the battle of Teri in 1823, and served under Sardar Hari Singh Nalwa in Nara. In 1835-36 he accompanied the Sikh force under Prince Kharak Singh against the Mazaris of Mithankot.

When Jawahir Singh became Minister, Nar Singh was treated with great favour; for he had married as his second wife an aunt of Maharani Jindan, the sister of Jawahir Singh. He received the present of an elephant with gold housings, was placed in command of the Mul Rajia regiment, and was sent with the Samba Sardar against the insurgents who had ravaged the country in the neighbourhood of Phalian, Gujrat, and had looted the shrine of Ker Sahib, a place of some sanctity, where Guru Nanak had slept on the Ker, or heaps of earth thrown up by the rats. The insurgents were speedily reduced to order, and the plundered property in a great measure recovered.

During the Sutlej campaign, Nar Singh served under Sardar Ranjodh Singh Majithia. He remained faithful to his Government during the Multan rebellion, as did his contingent of sowars, and was sent to Pind Dadan Khan under the orders of Misra Rallia Ram, Superintendent of the Salt Mines. He returned to Lahore with Raja Dina Nath after the latter's unsuccessful mission to Sardar Chatar Singh. From the year 1825, when Sardar Nar Singh's principal *jagirs* were resumed, he had only held *jagirs* worth Rs. 2,200 and cash allowances of Rs. 3,761. His *jagir* was in 1849 confirmed to him for life. He died in 1866.

Gulab Singh, brother of Nar Singh, served in the Mul Rajia regiment on Rs. 500 per annum. His daughter married Sardar Lehna Singh Majithia, but died within six months of her marriage. The third brother,





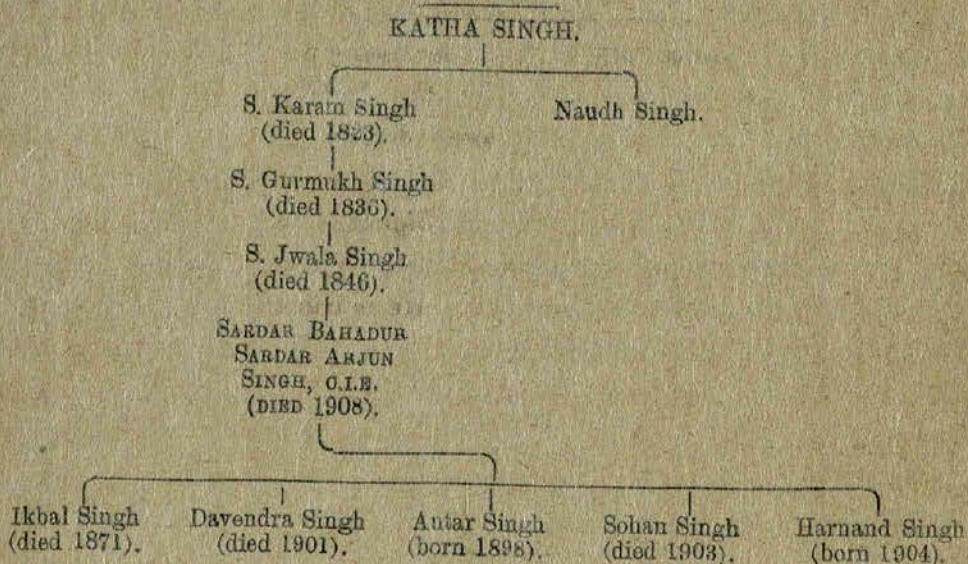
Surmukh Singh, died young. Sardar Sant Singh succeeded his father, Nar Singh, as head of the family, but, as the *jagir* holdings were resumed on his father's death, he found himself in reduced circumstances. His mother, Mussammat Kishan Kaur, who died in 1884, was in receipt of a compassionate allowance of Rs. 240 per annum. Sant Singh was connected by marriage with the family of the Maharaja Ranjit Singh. On his death his son Harnam Singh succeeded him. He is a Divisional Darbari, a member of Local and District Boards and Sub-Registrar of Tarn Taran. He owns about 1,000 *bighas* of land in Aima Kalan, Amritsar district, and some house property in Amritsar itself. His income is about Rs. 3,000 per annum. He is connected by marriage with the family of the Majithia Sardars.

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## CHIEFS AND FAMILIES OF NOTE.

THE LATE SARDAR BAHADUR SARDAR ARJUN  
SINGH, CHAHAL, C.I.E.

Katha Singh, a Chahal Jat, was, with his brothers, in the service of the Bhangi Sardars, Lehna Singh and Gujar Singh, who in 1764 had taken possession of Lahore. No one of them rose to any importance, but held small service *jagirs*. Katha Singh was killed in a skirmish on the borders of Bahawalpur, and his son Karam Singh succeeded to the *jagirs*, worth Rs. 5,000. For some years Karam Singh fought with the Bhangi *Misal*, and he became known for gallantry and ability till, in 1799, Ranjit Singh took Lahore from Chet Singh, son of Sardar Lehna Singh. Karam Singh, at first followed the fortunes of his old master, to whom Ranjit Singh had given a *jagir* of Rs. 60,000; but seeing at last that it was useless to remain with one who could not advance his interests in any way, he took service with the Maharaja, who gave him several villages in Ajnala. He rapidly rose to favour and became a very powerful Sardar. After the Pindi Bhatian and Jhang expeditions he received several new villages in *jagir*; and after the Kasur campaign, where he had especially distinguished himself, Ranjit Singh gave him the *ilakas* of Doda and Khanewal. His *jagirs* at length reached the value of Rs. 1,50,000, subject to the service of two hundred and fifty horsemen, and included the villages held by the family at the present day. Sardar Karam Singh fell mortally wounded by a musket ball in the battle of Teri in 1823, when the wild Yusafzai *Ghazis* so nearly defeated the best Sikh troops. He was carried to his tent, but





died the following day; and his loss was much felt both by the Maharaja and the army, in which he held command of the Gurkha battalion. His only surviving son, Gurmukh Singh, succeeded to the whole *jagir*. This young man had already for some years served under his father, and had fought in the battle of Teri. When Diwan Chuni Lal was appointed Governor of Kashmir after Diwan Moti Ram had been for the second time recalled, Gurmukh Singh was sent to support him, and he remained there two years. In 1836 he was ordered to Kohat, where he did good and gallant service; but was carried off by cholera in September of that year. Jwala Singh was at the time of his father's death only fourteen years old, and the Maharaja resumed all the estates, with the exception of one, worth Rs. 3,000, which was placed under the superintendence of Raja Hira Singh. Jwala Singh himself died in 1846 at the age of twenty-four, leaving one son, Arjun Singh, aged seven. For his support, and in consideration of his family, Maharaja Dalip Singh released two villages, Ghari and Labian, together worth Rs. 1,000, which on the annexation of the Punjab were confirmed to him for life, with two wells at Chahal in the Tarn Taran *pargana* of the Amritsar district, which have since been released in perpetuity. The residence of the family is at Chahal.

The *jagir*, under the revised settlement, was worth Rs. 2,800 per annum and Arjun Singh also owned about 2,500 kanals of land in Tarn Taran tahsil, as well as ten squares in the Lyallpur district. The late Sardar was a man of much force of character and intelligence. He was an Honorary Magistrate and Civil Judge of the first class, an Assistant Collector and Sub-Registrar of his district, President of the Local Board of Tarn Taran, a Fellow of the Punjab University, a Member of the Council of the Aitchison College and a Provincial Darbari. He received the title of Sardar Bahadur in 1894 and was made a Companion of the Indian Empire in 1906. He was Manager of the Darbar Sahib at Amritsar for over seven years until he resigned in 1896. In all these capacities he rendered very valuable services to the administration, and earned the respect and affection of all classes. As a Civil Judge he was particularly hardworking and for many years disposed of more suits than any other Honorary Judge in the Province. His work earned the repeated commendation of the Judges of the Chief Court. The Sardar died in January 1908 at the age of 69, leaving two minor sons. His estates are being managed by the Court of Wards.

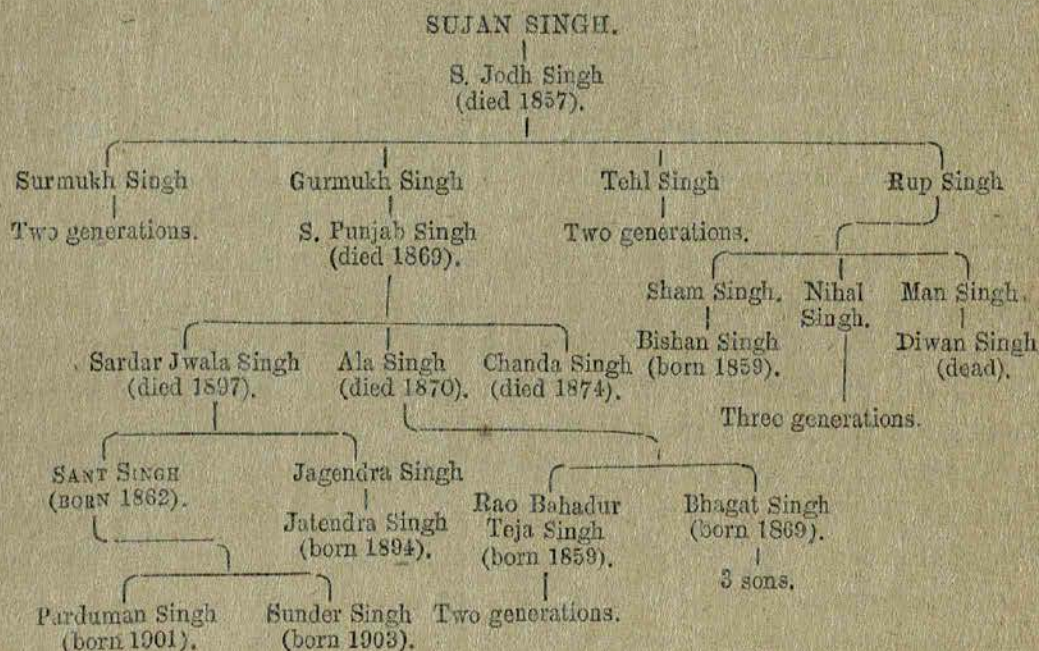
The title of Sardar is hereditary in the family.





## CHIEFS AND FAMILIES OF NOTE.

## SANT SINGH, RASULPURIA.



Sardar Sant Singh's ancestor Sujan Singh, a Jat Sikh, left the Manjha in 1760 as one of the Sukarchakia *Misal*, and acquired large estates in Ambala, and later on in the Jullundur Doab, said to have yielded a revenue of Rs. 24,000. His son Jodh Singh was driven out of the Moli *ilaka* in Ambala by the Kalsia chief of the same name, and the family later on lost most of their possessions in Hoshiarpur and Jullundur. Their home was at Rasulpur, Tarn Taran, in the Amritsar district. The Maharaja Ranjit Singh granted Jodh Singh a *jagir* of the value of Rs. 10,000 under the usual conditions of military service; and this was reduced to Rs. 2,000 when the Lahore dominions were annexed in 1849. The *jagir* villages were Rurki, Maijara and Sarai in the Garhshankar tahsil of the Hoshiarpur district. The grant was resumed on the death of Jodh Singh in 1857; a portion in *Mauza* Rurki, yielding Rs. 360, being continued as a compassionate allowance to his heirs. His grandson Punjab Singh was a distinguished soldier and received the title of Sardar in recognition of his services, he having been under fire in thirty-two engagements throughout his military career. He served in the Maharaja's Gorcharas for fifteen years before the break-up of the Sikh power; and he was appointed Risaldar in the





2nd Punjab Irregular Cavalry on the formation of that corps shortly after the annexation of the country; remaining until 1858, when he was transferred as commandant to the 5th Regiment of Mounted Police in Oudh. Lieutenant-General Sir Sam Browne wrote of him in 1860 as follows:— "No man has done more in the way of gallant acts than has Punjab Singh; and his judgment and discretion are equal to his gallantry." Sir Hope Grant, commanding a division of Cavalry in 1858, termed him "a brave, gallant soldier, and worthy of any reward." He was present at the siege of Delhi, taking part in the final assault; and he was with Colonel Greathead's column when the battles of Bulandshahr and Aligarh were fought. He was also engaged in many actions around Agra and Cawnpore, and he assisted at the relief of Lucknow. He was rewarded with the Orders of Merit and of British India; and he received a grant of land in the Kheri district of Oudh, which now yields about Rs. 4,000 per annum. In the Punjab he was given a property of seven hundred acres in Rakh Sukarchak, tahsil Tarn Taran, Amritsar, chargeable with an annual payment of Rs. 584. He died in 1869 and his oldest son, Jwala Singh, succeeded him as head of the family. He was a prominent man in his own part of the country, being a *Zaildar*, a member of the District Committee and a Divisional Darbari. Jwala Singh purchased fourteen villages in the Kheri district, Oudh, assessed with a revenue of Rs. 5,500, in addition to the grant made to his father for Mutiny services. His possessions in the Amritsar district were comparatively small, being confined to about five hundred *bighas* in the family village of Rasulpur. He died in 1897. His eldest son Sant Singh now represents the family and the family property has been divided equally between him and his brother Jagendra Singh. Sant Singh served for fifteen years in the Central India Horse being a *Ressaidar* when he retired. Besides his share of the property in Oudh, he owns twenty squares of land in Gujranwala and about 275 *bighas* in Amritsar district. He is a Divisional Darbari. His cousin Nihal Singh was a *Risaldar* in the Oudh Military Police and was granted a perpetual *jagir* of Rs. 50 in Barawalipur Rakh, Tara Taran.

Ala Singh, Sant Singh's uncle, was also a distinguished soldier. He died in 1870 while still serving in the Central India Horse, leaving two sons who followed their father's profession. The elder, Teja Singh,





was a Risaldar in the 11th Bengal Lancers. He accompanied the Boundary Commission under Sir Peter Lumsden, and rendered good service in connection with the Panjdeh incident, receiving the title of Rao Bahadur. Another uncle, Chanda Singh, was Wardi-Major of the same regiment. Teja Singh's brother Bhagat Singh was also in the 11th Bengal Lancers.

The descendants of Tehl Singh and Rup Singh reside in Hoshiarpur, where the village of Rurki, granted by Maharaja Ranjit Singh to Jodh Singh, is still in the possession of the family.

Sant Singh is connected by marriage with the Ghanauli (Ambala) and Nakai (Lahore) families, and his brother Jagendra Singh with the Atari Sardars.

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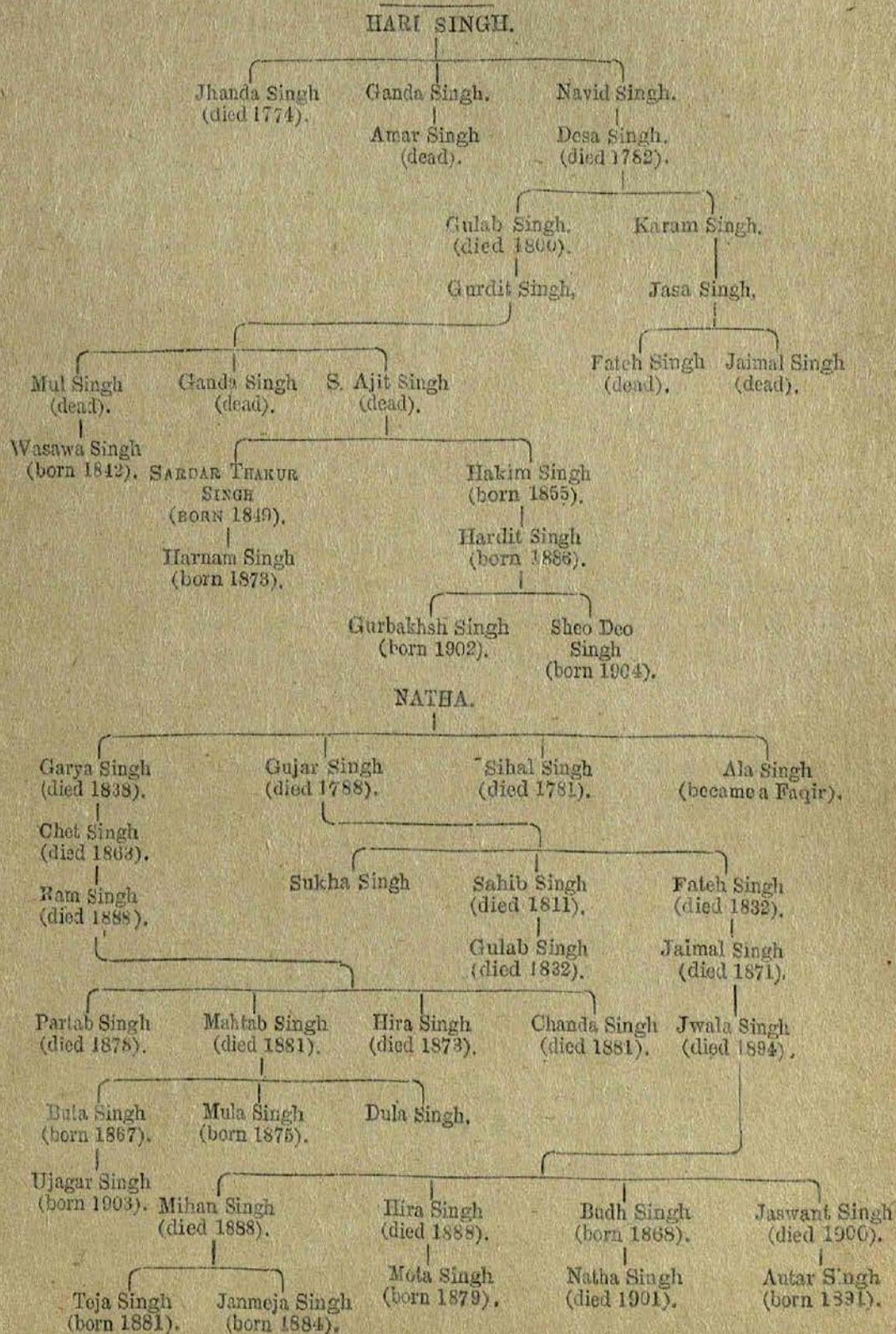




## AMRITSAR DISTRICT.

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## SARDAR THAKUR SINGH, BHANGI.







Bhama Singh, an inhabitant of Kasur, may be considered the founder of the powerful Bhangi confederacy. He was, however, little more than a robber, and his followers did not exceed three hundred. He was succeeded by his nephew Hari Singh, son of Bhup Singh, a *zamindar* of Patoh near Wadui, who was a man of great ability. He developed a band of robbers into an army and overran a large portion of the Punjab. It was his addiction to *bhang* (an intoxicating preparation of hemp) that gave the name 'Bhangi' to the *Misal*. Some indeed say that this name originated with Bhama Singh, who was of so arrogant a disposition that he was called by the Sikhs *Bala-bash* (High head). This, being a Turkoman title, annoyed Bhama Singh so much that he begged his comrades to change it for some other. Accordingly he was appointed, when in attendance at the Darbar Sahib of Amritsar, to pound *bhang* for the Khalsa, and was himself called Bhangi. The former account is the one commonly believed.

Hari Singh, whose head-quarters were at the village of Sohal in the Amritsar district, seized much of the neighbouring country, Sialkot, Karial, Mirowal. He ravaged Ohiniot and Jhang Sial, and attacked Jammu which he rendered tributary, and Multan without success. In 1762 he attacked the village of Khwaja Sayad ka Kot, two miles from Lahore, where Khwaja Abad, the Afghan Governor, had his arsenal; and carried away with him much booty, arms and ammunition. In 1763 he joined the Kanhayas and Ramgarhias in their attack on Kasur, and the next year was killed in a fight with Amar Singh of Patiala; and Jhanda Singh and Ganda Singh, two brothers who had served under him, succeeded to the command of one division of the Bhangi *Misal*. They were Dhilon Jats of Punjwar near Tarn Taran and under them the confederacy became very powerful. Associated with them were many famous chiefs: Bhag Singh Ahluwalia, Tara Singh, Sher Singh and Rai Singh Buriawala; Sudh Singh Dodia, Sahib Singh Sialkotia, Nadhan Singh Atu; and with them, too, though not inferior in rank, were the two Bhangi chiefs Gujar Singh and Lehna Singh, whose history is given later in this chapter.

In 1766 Jhanda Singh and Ganda Singh with a large force invaded Multan. Shuja Khan the Governor, and Mubarak Khan of Bahawalpur gave them battle on the banks of the Sutlej. Neither side could claim





the victory; but a treaty was signed to the effect that Pakpattan should be the boundary between the Sikh and Afghan States. After this, Jhanda Singh returned to Amritsar, where he employed himself in completing the Bhangi fort which Hari Singh had begun, and the remains of which are still to be seen behind the Lunmandi Bazar. It was not long before Jhanda Singh broke the provisions of the treaty with the Multan chief, and invaded his country in 1771. He besieged the fort unsuccessfully for a month and a half, till the near approach of an Afghan force under Jahan Khan compelled him to retire.

The next year, 1772, he was more successful. The successive Governors of Multan, Shuja Khan, Sharif Khan Sadozai and Sharif Beg Taklu, had quarrelled, and the latter invited Jhanda Singh and Ganda Singh to his assistance. They were ready enough to accept the invitation, and, marching south with a large force, defeated Shuja Khan and his allies the Daudputras of Bahawalpur, and seized Multan for themselves. Sharif Beg, thus fatally deceived, took refuge at Talamba, and then at Khairpur Tanwain, where he soon after died.

Jhanda Singh then marched northwards, leaving in charge of Multan Diwan Singh Chachowalia with a strong garrison. He first went to Ramnagar, where he recovered the *Zam-Zam* or Bhangi gun\* from

\* The history of this gun is somewhat remarkable. It was cast at Lahore, with another gun of the same size, in 1761 by Shah Nazir, under the directions of Shah Wali Khan, Prime Minister of Ahmad Shah. The date of its founding (A. H. 1174) may be derived from the last of the twenty Persian verses engraved upon it, each letter having a numerical value.

Paikar-i-Azhdahae Atishbar. پیکری از دھاتی آتشبار

The material of which the guns were made was a mixture of copper and brass obtained by the *jazia* (a tribute levied by Muhammadans from the infidels), a metal vessel being taken from each house in Lahore. Ahmad Shah, on his returning to Kabul after his victory over the Afghans at Panipat in 1761, left the *Zam-Zam* gun, the carriage of which was not ready, at Lahore in the charge of Khwaja Abad, whom he had appointed Governor. The other gun he took with him, and it was lost in the passage of the Chenab. The *Zam-Zam* had a longer life. Hari Singh Bhangi is said to have captured it when he plundered Khwaja Abad's arsenal, and to have taken it to Amritsar. But this is not correct; for it is certain that during the whole governorship of Khwaja Abad, 1761-1762, the gun was lying unmounted in the Shah Burj at Lahore. In 1764, when Lehna Singh and Gujar Singh Bhangi captured Lahore, they obtained possession of it. Two days later, Sardar Charat Singh Sukarchakia came to congratulate the Bhangis, and hinted that he should have some share of the spoil. The Bhangis, who knew that Charat Singh had come, not for congratulation, but only as a vulture who has scented a carcass, thought to outwit him, and, unwilling to make so powerful a Chief their enemy, offered him, with the greatest politeness, the *Zam-Zam* gun, the best part they asserted of the spoil, hoping and believing that he would be unable to carry it away. But Charat Singh, seeing he could get nothing more, called his men together and, with great labour, carried it off to his camp, and then to his fort at Gujranwala. Here it was captured by Ahmad Khan Chatha, who took it to his new fort of Ahmadnagar, much to the disgust of his brother Pir Muhammad, who thought he had also a claim to it, and the two quarrelled about its possession; and in the fights which





the Chathas, and thence to Jammu where his ally and tributary, Raja Ranjit Deo, was defending himself against his son Brij Raj Deo and the Kanhaya and Sukarchakia chiefs. For some time the rival forces engaged with varying success, till Sardar Charat Singh Sukarchakia was accidentally killed and the Bhangis seemed about to gain the victory. This the Kanhaya averted by the assassination of Jhanda Singh, causing him to be shot as he was riding through the camp. This was in 1774.

Ganda Singh succeeded to the command of the *Misal*; and, finding that no success could now be gained at Jammu, he retired to Amritsar, where he engaged himself in enlarging and strengthening the Bhangi quarter and in plotting against the Kanhayas, who had caused his brother's death. An opportunity for showing his enmity almost immediately occurred. Jhanda Singh had bestowed Pathankot on one of his *Misaldars*, Nand Singh, otherwise known as Mansa Singh. This man died about the same time as his chief, and his widow gave her daughter and the *jagir* of Pathankot to Tara Singh, a near relation of Hakikat Singh Kanhaya. Ganda Singh was exceedingly indignant at this, and insisted that Tara Singh should give up the *jagir*, but the Kanhayas refused; and Ganda Singh, collecting a large force, taking with him the Bhangi gun and with many of the Ramgarhia chiefs as allies, marched against Pathankot. Hakikat Singh, Tara Singh and Gurbakhsh Singh Kanhaya and Amar Singh Bhaga marched to Dinanagar to oppose his progress, and here an indecisive engagement took place; but while encamped at Dinanagar, Ganda Singh fell ill and died after ten days. Charat Singh, a nephew, was selected by the troops to succeed him; but

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ensued a son of Uir Muhammad and two sons of Ahmad Khan were slain. Pir Muhammad at length called in Gujar Singh Bhangi to his assistance, who entrapped Ahmad Khan, and kept him a day and a night without water till he promised to give up the gun, which Gujar Singh, cheating his ally, carried to Gujrat and kept himself. Here it remained two years, till, in an evil hour, the Bhangis took it with them on an expedition against Sardar Charat Singh Sukarchakia. The Bhangis were worsted, and the gun, too heavy to remove quickly, fell again into the hands of the Sukarchakia chief. In 1772 the Chathas, who were always fighting with Charat Singh, recovered the gun and placed it in the fort of Manchar, and a short time afterwards removed it to Rasulnagar, now Ramnagar. Here the next year it was captured by Sardar Jhanda Singh Bhangi on his return from Multan, and by him sent to Amritsar, where it remained in the Bhangi fort till 1802, when Ranjit Singh, who had the greatest desire to possess it, drove the Bhangis out of Amritsar and seized it. During the reign of Ranjit Singh the gun was taken, with great pomp, on five different campaigns, *viz.*, Daska, Kasur, Sujapur, Wazirabad and Multan. At the siege of the last-named place, in 1818, it was seriously injured, and, being considered unfit for further service, it was brought to Lahore and placed at the Delhi gate of the city, where it remained till 1860, when it was placed in front of the Lahore Museum where it now stands.





in the very first fight with the Kanhayas, Charat Singh was killed, and the Bhangi force, left without a leader, returned to Amritsar.

Desa Singh now became head of the confederacy, and one Gujar Singh acted as his Minister. But the days of the great Bhangi *Misal* were numbered, and the power and intellect of a boy were unable to control the many unruly chiefs who had been proud to fight under Hari Singh and Jhanda Singh. Bhag Singh Ahluwalia first declared himself independent; then Jhang ceased to pay tribute; and in 1779 Multan was lost.

It will be remembered that Sardar Jhanda Singh had left Diwan Singh in charge of Multan. He held his own for some years successfully; and in 1777 repulsed, though only with great loss, an attack of the Bahawalpur chief, and Muzaffar Khan, son of Shuja Khan. But in 1779 Timur Shah, son of Ahmad Shah, marched against Multan with a large army, and Diwan Singh, having held out for more than a month, was compelled to capitulate, and was allowed to retire unmolested. Desa Singh had also a great enemy in the person of Sardar Mahan Singh, head of the Sukarchakia *Misal*, which was now becoming very powerful; and in 1782, after holding the chiefship eight years, he was killed in action, but whether before Chiniot, which he had marched to reduce, or in a skirmish with Mahan Singh, is uncertain. He was succeeded by his son Gulab Singh; and of this chief there is little to record. He was a debauched, weak man, and had not energy sufficient to keep together the possessions which his father had left him. Year by year these diminished, till at last the town of Amritsar and some villages in the Manjha alone remained.

In 1800 a cabal was formed against Ranjit Singh, who had captured Lahore in July of the preceding year, and whose successes were beginning to fill all the Punjab chiefs with alarm. Chief in the cabal were Sardars Jassa Singh Ramgarhia, Sahib Singh and Gulab Singh Bhangi and Nizam-ud-din Khan of Kasur; and it was proposed to invite Ranjit Singh to a conference at Bhasin and there assassinate him. But the young chief was too wily to attend without a force large enough to secure his safety, and after two months passed in festivities he returned to Lahore. But, although Ranjit Singh escaped with his life, Gulab Singh was less fortunate. He had never missed an opportunity for drinking hard; and





on this occasion, when every night ended in a debauch, he drank so deep that he killed himself. Some have asserted that he was poisoned ; but there is no shadow of foundation for the story ; and he was so incapable a man that no one could possibly think it worth his while to destroy him. Gulab Singh left one son, Gurdit Singh, a boy ten years of age, married to the daughters of Sardars Sahib Singh Bhangi, son of Gujar Singh, and Fateh Singh Kanhaya. But no powerful alliances were of use against Ranjit Singh, who was determined to gain possession of Amritsar. He in 1802, with the intention of picking a quarrel with the Bhangis, sent to demand from Gurdit Singh the famous *Zam-Zam* gun. But the glory and prestige of the confederacy was derived in great part from the possession of this ; and although her chief advisers urged Sukhan, the mother of Gurdit Singh, to give it up, she refused to part with it and prepared to fight. But such preparations were worse than useless. Ranjit Singh with Fateh Singh Ahluwalia marched to Amritsar, attacked the Bhangi fort, and in five hours reduced it. Sukhan and her son took refuge with Sardar Jodh Singh Ramgarhia, and Ranjit Singh seized all the Bhangi possessions. Little more is known of Gurdit Singh. He died at his ancestral village of Panjwar in the Tarn Taran *Pargana* of the Amritsar district, where his descendants are still living.

Thakur Singh, as lineal descendant of Sardar Gurdit Singh, may be considered head of his family. He is a *Zaildar* at Panjwar, a member of the Local Board of Tarn Taran and of the District Board of Amritsar, and has a seat in Divisional Darbars. He and his brother Hakim Singh enjoy a *Jagir* yielding Rs. 240 per annum and own about two thousand *bighas* of land. Harnam Singh, son of Sardar Thakur Singh, is married to a daughter of Lakha Singh, a member of the family of Sardar Atma Singh, Padhania, and his cousin Hardit Singh to the daughter of Vir Singh, a relative of Sardar Hira Singh of Khumaon in Patiala, and also a granddaughter of one of the Sindhanwalia family. Harnam Singh has received a grant of ten squares in the Lyallpur district.

Notice must now be taken of two other powerful chiefs of the Bhangi *Misal*, Sardars Lehna Singh and Gujar Singh, who, though joining Jhanda Singh and Ganda Singh in some of their expeditions, have a history for the most part distinct. Lehna Singh's grandfather was a *zamindar* of the Kailon Jat caste, who in a time of scarcity left his native village of Sadawala in the Amritsar district for Mastapur near Kartarpur





in the Jullundur Doab. Here he was adopted by a man who joined the trades of carpentering and collecting taxes, and here his son Dargaha was born. Lehna Singh, the son of Dargaha, was a high spirited boy; and having been on one occasion beaten by his father for allowing cattle to stray into his field ran away from home, and after wandering about for some time at length reached the village of Roranwala, one mile from Atari, where Gurbakhsh Singh Bhangi lived. This man was one of the best fighters under Sardar Hari Singh. He owned about forty villages, and used to scour the country with a band of horsemen and collect plunder from far and near. He took a fancy to young Lehna Singh and put him into his troop, and later, having no son of his own, adopted him. Gurbakhsh Singh died in 1763; and dissensions straightway arose between Lehna Singh, the adopted son, and Gujar Singh, the son of Gurbakhsh Singh's daughter, each claiming the property. Jhanda Singh and Ganda Singh Bhangi came to Waniki to try and settle the dispute; but Gujar Singh would not listen to terms, and set out with his followers for Roranwala. Lehna Singh pursued and came up with him, and a fight was the result, in which a few men were killed on either side. At length an arrangement was made, by which Lehna Singh and Gujar Singh divided the estate. The former kept Roranwala, and the latter founded a new village between Behrwala and Rani, which he called Rangarh, in remembrance of his fight with Lehna Singh, of whom he now became the fast friend.

The two Sardars then planned the capture of Lahore, which Kabuli Mal held in the interest of Ahmad Shah. The Governor was a timid and, at the same time, a tyrannical man; and as the Sikh horse, becoming every day more bold, plundered the country up to the very walls of the city, he grew alarmed for his safety, and when he obtained secret intelligence of the Bhangi plot he fled from Lahore leaving it in charge of his nephew Amir Singh. He took the road to Jammu; but some of the refugees, who had left Lahore through his tyranny, handled him so roughly that he would probably have been killed had not some troops sent by Raja Ranjit Deo as his escort rescued him. The Raja sent him to Rawalpindi where the rear-guard of Ahmad Shah's army had halted; and here he died shortly afterwards.

One dark night Lehna Singh and Gujar Singh with two hundred men determined to surprise Lahore. They found all the gates closed; but





one Dayal Singh showed them a drain by which it was possible to enter with some squeezing. Gujar Singh led the way, Lehna Singh followed and the other Sikhs. The fort was taken by surprise; Amir Singh, the Deputy Governor, was captured at a nauteh and put in irons, and before morning the whole city was in possession of the confederates. Early the next day Sobha Singh Kanhaya, nephew of Jai Singh, arrived. He had, since the last Afghan invasion, been in hiding at his native village of Kanah. He was one of the confederates and, although too late to aid in the capture, was allowed a share of the prize. Then came the other Bhangi and Kanhaya Sardars; and lastly Charat Singh Sukarchakia, who was very hard to please, and would not go away till the Bhangis had given him the *Zam-Zam* gun, which he carried to Gujranwala. The three Sardars then divided Lahore among them; Lehna Singh taking the citadel, with the Masti, Khizri, Kashmiri and Roshani Gates. Gujar Singh built for himself a fort without the walls, which he called Kila Gujar Singh, and in 1765 marched northwards to conquer new territory.

Lehna Singh and Sobha Singh remained in Lahore in peace till Ahmad Shah made his final descent upon the Punjab in 1767, when they retired to Panjwar. But the great Durani leader felt age and infirmity creeping upon him; and having no man of genius like Adina Beg Khan to leave in charge of the province, he resolved to conciliate the Sikh chiefs. To Lehna Singh he sent a present of fruit; but he returned it, saying that grain was the food for peasants like him, not fruit, which was a luxury for kings. Pleased with this humble reply, Ahmad Shah confirmed Lehna Singh in his possession of Lahore and returned to Kabul, where he died in 1773. For twenty years after this the Lahore Sardars ruled in tolerable quiet till 1797, when Shah Zaman, who had succeeded to the throne of Kabul, invaded the Punjab; and Lehna Singh again retired from Lahore, and returned after the departure of the Shah, but died the same year. Sobha Singh died about the same time, and was succeeded by his son Mohar Singh, while Obet Singh succeeded Lehna Singh.

Shah Zaman again appeared in 1798, but only remained a few months in Lahore, as news from Persia rendered his return necessary. Sardar Ranjit Singh Sukarchakia obtained from the Shah a grant of the city in return for services which he rendered, the principal of which was the raising and forwarding to the Shah eight guns which had sunk in the river Ravi. But the gift was only nominal, and Ranjit Singh was left





to gain possession for himself. This was not difficult. The only man of any energy among the joint rulers of Lahore was Sahib Singh, son of Gujar Singh, and he was absent at Gujrat. Chet Singh was an imbecile, and Mohar Singh possessed neither character nor influence. Their rule was hated by the people, and their own adherents, Bhai Gurbakhsh Singh, Hakim Rai and Mian Ashak Muhammad, were in favour of Ranjit Singh, and wrote him word that he could easily make himself master of the place. Ranjit Singh with a large force entered Anarkali, and Chet Singh, who thought of marching to oppose him, was dissuaded from so doing by his agent Mohkam Din, *Chaudhri* of Kotnao, who was in charge of the Lohari gate, which he opened to the enemy. Ranjit Singh took possession without difficulty, and Chet Singh and Mohar Singh fled.

Some time later Ranjit Singh granted to Chet Singh a *jagir* of Rs. 60,000 in Waniki, which he held till his death in 1815. He left no son by any of his eight wives; but four months after his death Bibi Hukam Kaur gave birth to a son named Atar Singh, in favour of whom Ranjit Singh released an estate of Rs. 6,000 at Waniki. This was afterwards much reduced and exchanged for Ladi, which again, in 1819, was exchanged for Chak Didu, part of Lehna Singh's old estate. On annexation this village was released to Atar Singh and his mother for their lives.

Sardar Gujar Singh's expedition to conquer the country to the north of Lahore was successful enough, and he soon became a far more powerful chief than Lehna Singh or Sobha Singh. He first attacked Gujrat, which was then held by Sultan Mukarab, a Ghakar chief, and, defeating him in an engagement just beyond the walls, took possession of both the city and the neighbouring country. Gujrat he now made his head-quarters, and the next year, 1766, marched to Jammu, which he overran and held tributary with Jhanda Singh Bhangi; and then successively reduced Poonch, Islamgarh and Deva Butala. In 1767 Ahmad Shah made his last invasion of India, driving before him all the new Sikh chiefs; for in those days the dread of an Afghan army was such that there was no thought of opposing it in the open field; and leaving behind him the proverb, *Khada pita laeda rehnda Ahmad Shah da*; meaning that Ahmad Shah left nothing that men could call their own but what they had actually in their mouths.





Among those who fled was Gujar Singh. He went to Lahore, and thence, as Ahmad Shah advanced, to Ferozepore; and when the Durani chief had finally turned his back on the Panjab, he recovered his share of the city of Lahore and left it in charge of Takht Singh, a near relation. He then went to Amritsar; and for the defence of the holy city laid the foundations of fort Gujar Singh, where now stands the newer fort of Gobindgarh. Charat Singh Sukarchakia also built a fort to the north of the Darbar Sahib (the Golden Temple), while that of Jassa Singh Ramgarhia lay to the east, and that of the Bhangis to the south. Then at his village of Rangarh he married his eldest son to the daughter of Bhag Singh Abluwalia; and as soon as the festivities were over marched with his whole force to Gujrat, recovering all his old conquests with but little trouble. Then, in conjunction with Sardar Charat Singh Sukarchakia, he besieged the famous fort of Rohtas held by the Ghakars. After a siege of several months it was reduced, and the whole of the neighbouring country as far as Rawalpindi, with its splendid fighting tribes, Janjohas, Ghakars, Awans, submitted to the allies. He then married his second son Sahib Singh to a daughter of Sardar Charat Singh, and some time later to a daughter of Hamir Singh of Jind.

Gujar Singh had divided his territories between his two eldest sons Sukha Singh and Sahib Singh. These quarrelled; and the younger, at the instigation of Sardar Mahan Singh Sukarchakia, who was always seeking to benefit by the mistakes of others, attacked his brother, who was killed during the action. Gujar Singh was very indignant when he heard of this, and determined to dispossess Sahib Singh of all the country under his charge. He marched upon Gujrat, and was admitted without question; and Sahib Singh, now in open revolt, shut himself up in Islamgarh. But Gujar Singh did not wish to proceed to extremities and forgave his son the moment he showed a disposition to sue for pardon, and, confirming him in his old possessions, made over those which had been held by Sukha Singh to his youngest son Fateh Singh. But another cause of disunion soon arose. Sardar Mahan Singh was besieging Rasulnagar, the capital of his enemies the Chathas, and a principal officer escaping from the town took refuge in Sardar Gujar Singh's camp. Mahan Singh demanded his surrender, which was refused. Sahib Singh, however, willing to oblige his brother-in-law, made the refugee over to him, and he was put to death. Gujar Singh was indignant at this disobe-





dience of his son; he cursed him, and prayed that, as he had insulted and dishonoured his father, so his son might insult and dishonour him. This conduct of Sahib Singh so preyed upon the old Sardar's mind that he fell ill; and leaving all his possessions to his youngest son Fateh Singh, he retired to Lahore, where he died in 1788. His tomb is situated near the Saman Burj.

However much Gujar Singh may have wished to exclude his eldest son from the succession, the Sardars of the Khalsa would not admit his right to do so; and Sahib Singh took possession of his father's estates without active opposition from Fateh Singh, who went to live with Mahan Singh at Gujranwala. For some time there was peace between the brothers-in-law Mahan Singh and Sahib Singh; but in 1789 they openly quarrelled, and for two years remained in constant hostility. At length, in 1791, Mahan Singh shut up Sahib Singh in the fort of Sodhra and reduced him to great straits. The Bhangi chief called to his assistance Lehna Singh of Lahore and Karam Singh Dhilon. The former would not move; but Karam Singh came with a large force to raise the siege, and an engagement took place between him and Mahan Singh. The Sukarchakia chief was at this time very ill, and during the fight fainted away on his elephant; the driver of which turned and carried his master from the field. His forces, missing their leader, fled: the siege was raised, and Mahan Singh retired to Gujranwala, where he died three days afterwards; the desertion of his old friend Jodh Singh Wazirabadia hastening his death. In 1797 Shah Zaman invaded the Punjab, and Sahib Singh retired to the hills. The Shah only remained a few days in Lahore and then returned to Afghanistan. He left behind him at Pind Dadan Khan an officer, known as the Shahanchi, with seven thousand Afghan troops who, on Sahib Singh's return to Gujrat, marched against him with allies from among the Muhammadan tribes of the Jhelum district. Sahib Singh, with Nihal Singh and Wazir Singh Atariwala, Jodh Singh Wazirabadia and Karam Singh Dbilon, gave him battle and completely defeated him. This was in 1798, and was the first time that the Sikhs had fairly beaten the Afghans in the open field. A few months after this defeat of the Shahanchi, Shah Zaman again invaded the Punjab; but his stay was short, and he retired, making Ranjit Singh a grant of Lahore, which he captured, as has been already related. Fateh Singh Bhangi now joined Ranjit Singh, who promised to give him half of





his brother's possessions, and with this assistance he seized Fatehgarh, now called Kot Bari Khan, and Sodhra. When Sahib Singh heard of the fall of Lahore, he moved with a large force against Ranjit Singh, the Ramgarhia and Kasur troops marching from the east and south to the same point; but the meeting at Bhasin passed off peaceably. Hostilities commenced later in the year, and continued for some time, Fateh Singh becoming reconciled to his brother. But this friendship did not last long; for on Fateh Singh favouring Mai Sahib Kaur, wife of Sahib Singh, who disgusted at her husband's third marriage, held the fort of Jalalpur against him, his property and newly granted estates were all seized. Fateh Singh went back to Ranjit Singh who, remembering that he had deserted him in the middle of the campaign, would do nothing for him, and after remaining in Lahore in great poverty for a year he was compelled to return to his brother at Gujrat, who gave him Danlatnagar and other estates.

Sahib Singh now began to lose the energy which had so much distinguished him, and gave himself up to drunkenness and debauchery. He quarrelled with Sardar Nihal Singh Atariwala, and with Mohkam Chand, his Diwan, afterwards so celebrated, who both went over to Ranjit Singh. In 1803 he accompanied the Lahore chief on the Patiala campaign, and at its close returned to Gujrat. In 1810 Ranjit Singh determined to take possession of Sahib Singh's country and sent for that purpose Hukam Singh Atariwala and Sewa Singh. Sahib Singh, seeing resistance hopeless, fled from Gujrat with fifty horsemen and took refuge in the fort of Deva Butala, and his whole *jagirs* were seized, an estate of Rs. 25,000 being granted to Gulab Singh who had intrigued against his father. In 1810, when the Maharaja was engaged in the siege of Multan, Mai Lachhmi, mother of Sahib Singh, proceeded thither, and interceded for her son with such effect that the *ilaka* of Bajwant, worth a lakh of rupees, was released in his favour. This he held till his death, which took place the next year, when Ranjit Singh took two of his widows, Daya Kaur and Ratan Kaur, into his *zanana*, marrying them by *chadar dalna*. Daya Kaur, daughter of Diwan Singh Wirk, was the reputed mother of Pashaura Singh and Kashmir Singh; Ratan Kaur the reputed mother of Multana Singh. Sardar Fateh Singh Gujratia, on the death of his brother and the resumption of the *jagir*, went to Kapurthala, where he remained in the service of the Ahluwalia chief for two years till, on





the death of his mother Mai Lachhmi, he received a grant of Rangarh and some other villages in the Amritsar district, and entered the service of Sardar Sham Singh Atariwala in whose contingent he served for many years. He was killed in Bannu at the siege of the fort of Malik Dilasa Khan. About the same time, in 1832, Gulab Singh died and his *jagirs* were all resumed.

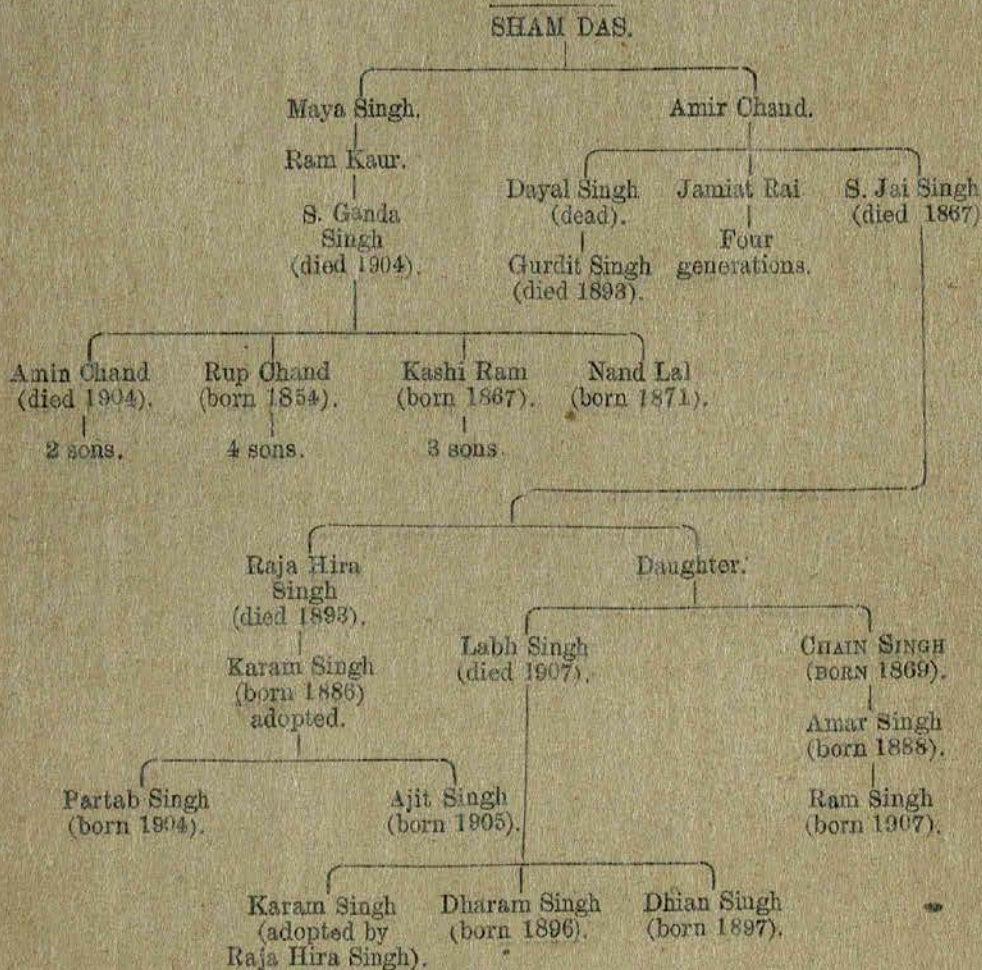
Jaimal Singh, only son of Fateh Singh, was for some time in Sardar Sham Singh's force, and served on the frontier and at Peshawar. He, however, quarrelled with his chief, and this brought on Jaimal Singh more troubles than there is space to record here. Through the enmity of Sham Singh his *jagir* was resumed, and when the British occupied the country he was in great poverty. He resided at Rangarh, without pension or estate, the representative of the great Bhangi house, which had once possessed more power and had ruled over a larger territory than any other family between the Sutlej and the Indus. He died in 1871 leaving a son, Jwala Singh, who also resided at Rangarh. His son Budh Singh was *lambardar* of the village and has been succeeded by his nephew Janmeja Singh. The family enjoys no pension or *jagir* but possesses over four hundred *ghumaos* of land in proprietary right.

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## SARDAR CHAIN SINGH OF HIRAPUR.



Raja Hira Singh, uncle of Sardar Chain Singh the present representative of this family, was a Gondar Sud Khatri Sikh, whose home was at Hirapur, a village founded by himself near Okhabal in the Tarn Taran tahsil. His grandfather was a writer of ordinary status under the Khalsa. His father, Sardar Jai Singh, commenced soldiering as a Jamadar in Maharaja Ranjit Singh's French Regiment. For a conspicuous act of courage at Peshawar in 1848, when Lawrence was attacked by the mutinous Sikh troops, Jai Singh was appointed Risaldar in the 1st Punjab Irregular Cavalry, raised and commanded by Sir Henry Daly, who mentioned in the highest terms the brave behaviour of this fine old Sikh in more than one frontier expedition. He records of him: "There is not in the army a more gallant soldier, and I know no abler or more experienced officer." General John Watson further writes: "He is





one of the most able and excellent officers, and the most honest and upright I have ever met. He has been my right hand during the whole of the Mutiny campaign from the siege of Delhi to the fall of Lucknow." These commendations were warmly endorsed by Sir James Hope Grant, who commanded the Cavalry Division at Lucknow, as well as by Sir Colin Campbell, Commander-in-Chief. At the close of the campaign Sardar Jai Singh's services were transferred as commandant of the 4th Regiment of Oudh Mounted Police. He received a grant of twenty-six villages in the Jamdan *ilaka* of the Baraich district, in addition to the Orders of Merit and of British India, and the usual military pension. He died in 1867.

His son, Hira Singh, proved himself a not less worthy servant of the Queen. He commenced service in 1855 as a Dafadar in his father's regiment, and was appointed Jamadar on the outbreak of the Mutiny, being promoted to a Risaldarship at its close. He took part in most of the important actions, and was present at the capture of Delhi and Lucknow, receiving the Order of Merit. He then volunteered for service in China and was attached as Risaldar to Fan's Horse, doing excellent service. He resigned his commission on the death of his father, and set himself to improve his *Tabukdari* property in Oudh, adding to the estates by the purchase of eighty thousand *bighas* in the Parthapur *ilaka*, tahsil Nanpara, Baraich; and he had the name of being a model landlord, punctual in his revenue payments, and kind and considerate to his tenants. He also acquired by purchase the estate of Hirapur in the Tarn Taran tahsil, Amritsar; and both in the Punjab and in Oudh his name stood high as a generous friend of the poor, and a liberal contributor to all deserving charities. He set apart a considerable sum, the interest of which is devoted to the purchase of quinine for the fever-stricken on his estates. He presented the people of Ohhabal, his native village, with a handsome tank built at a cost of Rs. 20,000, and provided for its perpetual repair by investing Rs. 10,000 in Government funds for this special purpose. He also built a large *sarai* at Amritsar and set apart the sum of Rs. 50,000 in land and securities for its maintenance. His works of public utility in Baraich and at Nipalganj have been numerous, and they are thoroughly appreciated by the people, who looked on him as less of a foreigner than the other Punjab landowners, [who are not always insympathy with the local population.





Sardar Hira Singh was honoured with the title of Raja, bestowed upon him at the recommendation of Sir Auckland Colvin by his Excellency the Marquess of Dufferin in December 1888. General Walter Fane, who perhaps knew him more intimately than any other British officer, wrote of him as follows: "I know no native whom I can more honestly praise than Hira Singh, and he has left my regiment to the regret of every officer and man. He served with great gallantry and distinction before Delhi and throughout the subsequent campaign of 1858. He was the first to volunteer for foreign service in China, and was of the greatest assistance to me in raising Fane's Horse. There is not an officer or man in my regiment I would not sooner spare than Hira Singh. I believe him to be one of the most truthful and straightforward officers I ever knew." He died in 1893 and was succeeded by his sister's grandson, Karam Singh, whom he had adopted, as he had no direct issue of his own. Karam Singh is an Oudh *Talukdar* and lives chiefly on his estates at Baraich in that Province.

Sardar Chain Singh, a son of Raja Hira Singh's sister, is now regarded as the chief representative of the family in the Amritsar district. He is a Divisional Darbari in Oudh but resides at Hirapur. He has been given a grant of ten squares of land in the Chenab Colony.

The Raja's second cousin, Sardar Ganda Singh, was for many years a Risaldar in the 19th Bengal Lancers. Ganda Singh's eldest son, Amin Chand, was a district officer in the Jammu State; and two others of his children are employed in Kapurthala.

Sheo Ram, great-grandson of Jamiat Rai, is a Professor in the Lahore Government College.





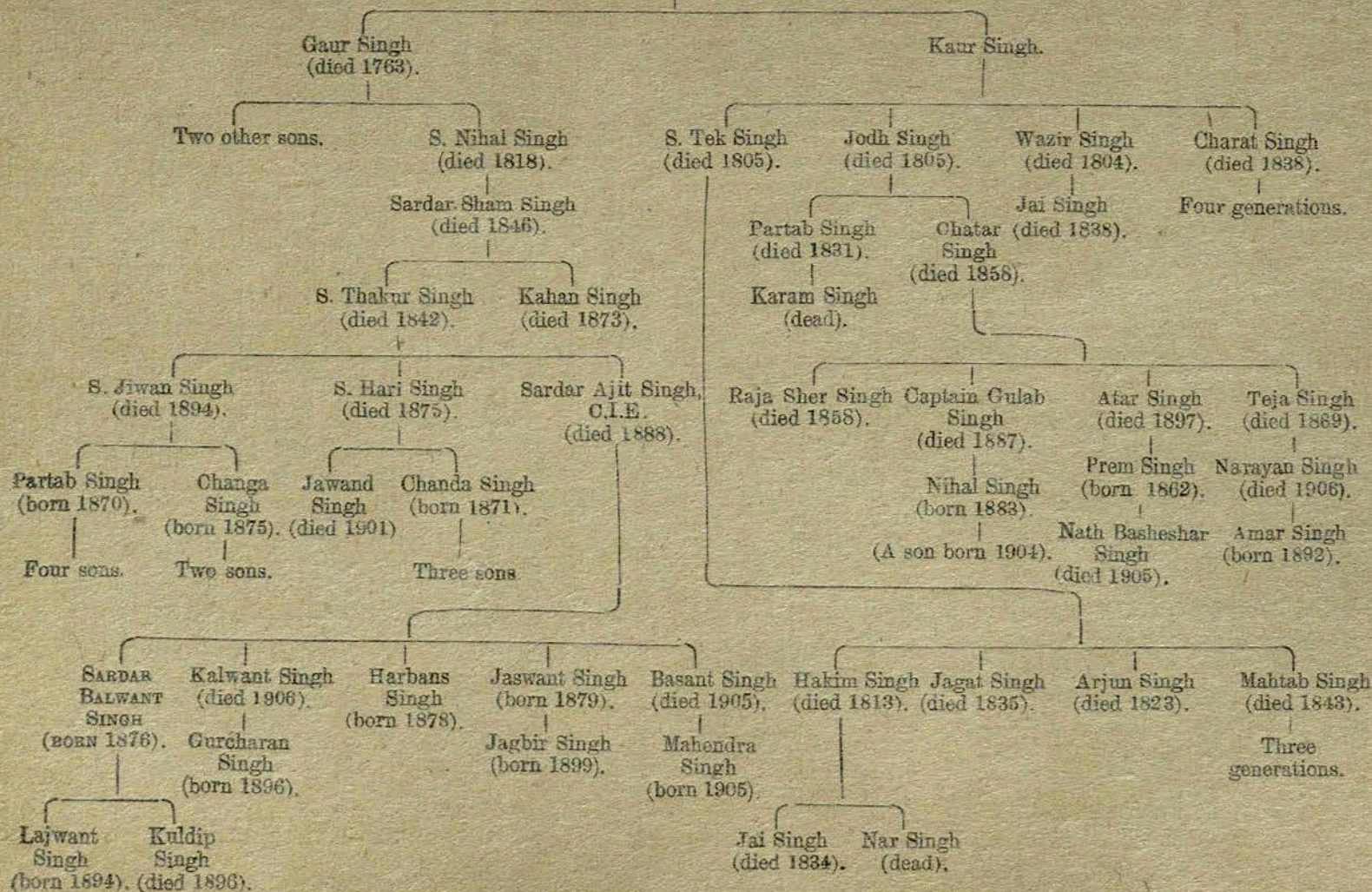
# SARDAR BALWANT SINGH ATARIWALA.

KAHAN CHAND.

CSL

AMRITSAR DISTRICT.

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The family of Atari, like that of Sindhanwala, is of Rajput origin, and emigrated to the Punjab from the neighbourhood of Jaisalmer. But although of the same tribe of Bhati Rajputs, the families are not at this day of equal rank. Their Rajput characteristics have long been lost, and both are now Jats. The Sindhanwalas, from their near relationship to Maharaja Ranjit Singh and their large possessions, were most powerful, and possessed greater influence at Court; but their caste is Sansi Jat, far inferior to the Atariwalas, who stand at the head of the Sidhu Jats, the best blood of the Manjha. This pride of birth was so strong in the family, that Sardar Sham Singh Atariwala, with the greatest reluctance, and only after numerous delays, allowed his daughter Nanki to be betrothed to Kunwar Nao Nihal Singh, grandson of Maharaja Ranjit Singh. He considered the alliance as a disgrace.

Dhira, son of Jagnal, was the first of the family to leave Jaisalmer for Mehraj Phul in Patiala about the year 1580. Dhira was a great musician, and his name is still well known to Indian performers. About 1735 the family broke up, some members settling at Indgarh in Jagraon, and the two brothers, Gaur Singh and Kaur Singh, coming to the Manjha with twenty-five horsemen to seek their fortune. Soon afterwards they went to Amritsar and took the *pauhal*, becoming Singhs, and entered the service of Gurbakhsh Singh Roranwala, then chief of the Bhangi *Misal*. The two branches of the family soon quarrelled; and their after history is so distinct that it will be best to treat of them separately.

Gaur Singh became a disciple of Bawa Mul Das, an ascetic of great sanctity, who directed him to settle at Tiblia, or Karewa, where Gaur Singh accordingly built an *atari*, or thatched house, which gave its name to the family and to the village which rose around it. After the death of Gurbakhsh Singh Bhangi, Gaur Singh served under Sardar Gujar Singh and Lehna Singh. In 1737 he took possession of the villages around Atari to the value of Rs. 7,000 per annum, and two years afterwards received from Sardar Gujar Singh a *jagir* worth Rs. 18,600. He died in 1763; and his son Nihal Singh continued to hold the *jagir* under Sardar Sahib Singh Bhangi, son of Sardar Gujar Singh.

Sahib Singh was chief of Gujrat, and here Nihal Singh went with his contingent and several of his cousins, sons of Kaur Singh. He soon became distinguished for courage and ability; and in the battle which took place between the Sikh chiefs and the Afghans under Shahanchi Bashi, officer of Zaman Shah, in 1798, the exertions of Nihal Singh contributed very much





to the victory. In 1800, soon after Ranjit Singh had obtained possession of Lahore, the Bhangi chiefs and their allies met at Bhasin to consider what steps they should take against him. Hither came Nihal Singh with his superior, Sahib Singh; and Ranjit Singh, happening to see him, was struck with his bold appearance and his excellent horsemanship. He sent for him, and tried to induce him to change sides and take service with him. Sardar Nihal Singh however declined. He was not going to desert his old master, and told Sahib Singh of the offer, who was much pleased at his refusal and increased his *jagirs* and allowances.

This promotion excited much jealousy in the minds of his cousins Tek Singh, Jodh Singh and Wazir Singh, who were all in the service of the Bhangi chief; and it was through their representations that Sahib Singh, who was a weak and changeable man, confiscated Rs. 15,000 of his *jagir*. Nihal Singh threw up the Bhangi service in disgust and retired to Atari, where he took to cattle-lifting and robbery as a means of livelihood. One day he seized a number of camels belonging to Ranjit Singh, and had sold some of them before Ranjit Singh's messengers arrived to demand restitution. After some time he consented to give back those which he still had by him; and Ranjit Singh was so pleased at this concession that he again urged the Sardar to enter his service, to which Nihal Singh, after some hesitation, consented. He was placed in command of four hundred and sixteen horsemen, one gun, and seven camel swivels.

In 1803 he was granted the *jagir* of Sukhu, worth Rs. 54,500, and three years later the *ilaka* of Kasur, worth a lakh. In 1807 he accompanied the Maharaja on his Kasur expedition, which ended in the defeat and expulsion of Kutb-ud-din Khan Kasuria; and Nihal Singh was put in possession of the whole *ilaka* of Kasur, worth Rs. 1,70,000. On the south side of the Sutlej, the Dogras, a wild and turbulent tribe, who were at enmity with Dhana Singh, son of Gurbakhsh Singh, the ruler of Ferozepore, invited Nihal Singh to attack it, and promised their assistance. He was ready enough to comply, and, crossing the river, dislodged the garrison of Dhana Singh Ferozepore-wala from the fort of Dalehi. At this time, another branch of the Dogra tribe settled at Baraki, who were also hostile to their chief, Dhana Singh, sent to Lahore to beg Mora, a celebrated courtesan then high in favour with the Maharaja, to take their part. She asked for a grant of Ferozepore, and obtained it, and sending troops to enforce her claim, seized Baraki. Nihal Singh now offered to assist Dhana Singh, who, in spite of his fears was too weak to refuse. The two chiefs then drove Mora's troops out of Baraki,





and Nihal Singh attacked Ferozepore, without success. The next year, 1808, Nihal Singh seized by stratagem the fort of Khai; and Dhana Singh, who saw his dangerous ally growing more and more powerful every day, was glad enough, in 1809, to place himself under British protection.

The territory which Nihal Singh thus seized south of the Sutlej was worth Rs. 18,000 per annum; and soon after he obtained the grant of villages round Atari to the value of Rs. 3,000. His *jagirs* amounted to Rs. 3,06,800, of which Rs. 1,50,000 were personal and Rs. 1,56,800 subject to service.

Excepting the Sindhanwalias, no Sikh Sardar stood so high in the Maharaja's favour as Nihal Singh. His services were numerous and important; indeed there was hardly any campaign from 1801 to 1817 in which he did not take a distinguished part. He accompanied the first Kashmir expedition; he was at the affairs of Pind Dadan Khan, Kask, Dalor, Nila, Hola, Chakwal, Saidpur, Narayangarh and Multan. At this latter place, in 1810, he was severely burnt by the explosion of a mine. Atar Singh Dhari, who was standing beside him, was killed, and many officers were much hurt. Nihal Singh had to be sent to Lahore for treatment.

In 1817 Ranjit Singh fell sick at Waniki, and Nihal Singh is said to have given his life for the Maharaja by walking, with certain ceremonies, round his bed, and thus taking upon himself the disorder. The superstition is not an uncommon one in India; and accident, or Nihal Singh's imagination, seemed to give it some show of truth, for he retired to Atari, where he fell ill and died a few months afterwards. His son Sham Singh he had just before introduced into the Maharaja's service, and his first campaign was against Multan in 1818, where he commanded a battery to the south of the fort. With him, in command of batteries, were Sardars Dal Singh Naharna, Amir Singh Sindhanwalia and Desa Singh Majithia. The great Bhangi gun was brought from Lahore and was fired four times, doing considerable damage to the walls. The fort was at length taken; Sardar Sham Singh being one of the first in the breach, where he was wounded in the shoulder by a sword cut.

After this he served in many battles, and gained as great a name for courage as his father. He accompanied the successful expedition against Kashmir in 1819, and fought at Gandgarh Teri, Nari-Nari, Duthair, Jahan-gira, and in Yusafzai. In 1834 he went to Bannu with Diwan Tara Chand, and in the campaign had his horse shot under him.





The marriage of his daughter Nanki to Prince Nao Nihal Singh, to whom she had been betrothed in 1831, took place at Amritsar on the 7th March 1837. Sir Henry Fane, Commander-in-Chief, was present, and the ceremony was conducted with the greatest splendour. The bride brought a dowry to the Prince of eleven elephants, one hundred horses, one hundred camels, with a very large amount both of money and jewels. The wedding is said to have cost the Atari Sardar fifteen lakhs of rupees. Two months afterwards the news came of Sardar Hari Singh Nalwa's defeat and death; and Sham Singh had to march to Peshawar with his troops, and he remained at that station for two years, till the death of Ranjit Singh. After this event, Sham Singh, although constantly engaged in military duties, did not meddle with politics. He was in charge of the troops which, in May 1841, escorted the family of Shah Shuja to Peshawar; afterwards he was sent to Hazara to collect the revenue. He compelled that turbulent chief Paimda Khan to deliver up his son as a hostage, and brought him to Lahore, where he was soon afterwards honourably dismissed. Throughout the reigns of Kharak Singh and Sher Singh, Sardar Sham Singh retained his *jagirs* intact. After the assassination of Jawahir Singh, he crossed the Sutlej to Kakrala, with the excuse of celebrating the marriage of his son Kahan Singh. When, however, the Sikh army invaded the Cis-Sutlej territory, he felt that he could not, in honour, remain out of the Punjab, and returned to Atari, where he lived in retirement. No one could doubt his bravery; but he saw, with disgust and sorrow, the Sikh army bent upon a war, of which he entirely disapproved, and marching to destruction under the guidance of false and incompetent men, and he resolved to stand himself aloof. But on the 25th of December, just after the news of Lal Singh's defeat at Ferozeshah had reached Lahore, the Maharani heard that Sham Singh was at Atari, and sent there ten horsemen, who were to be quartered on the Sardar till he joined the army. Sham Singh sent, again and again, to the Maharani, denouncing the war and the policy that was destroying the country, but in vain; and at last, when told he was a coward and afraid to die, he determined to join the camp, but swore not to survive the defeat, which he knew was certain. It is said that the night before Sobraon, Sardar Tej Singh counselled him to fly with him on the first attack of the British. Sham Singh refused with scorn. On which Tej Singh angrily said: "If you are so brave you had better take your oath about it, for I believe you will come with me after all." Sardar Sham Singh called for a *Granth* (the Sikh Scriptures), and solemnly swore that, should the Sikhs be defeated, he





would never leave the trenches alive. On the morning of the battle, the 10th of February, he dressed himself in white, and, having mounted his white mare, addressed his men, begging them, as true sons of the Khalsa, to die rather than turn their backs on the enemy. During the first part of the battle he was everywhere present, urging the Sikhs to fight bravely; and it was not till he saw that all was lost that he spurred forward against the 50th Regiment, waving his sword, and calling on his men to follow him. Some fifty of them obeyed the call, but were driven back into the river, and Sham Singh fell dead from his horse, pierced with seven balls. After the battle his servants swam over the river and begged permission to search for his body. The permission was granted; and the body of the old Sardar, conspicuous by his white dress and long white beard, was discovered where the dead lay thickest. His servants placed the body on a raft and swam with it across the river, but it was not till the third day that it reached Atari; and his widow, who knew his resolution not to survive defeat, had already burnt herself with the clothes which the Sardar had worn on his marriage day. This was the last *Sati* in the Punjab; and the pillar which marks the spot where it took place is still standing without the walls of Atari.

Sardar Sham Singh was one of the best representatives of the Jat race, which for manliness, honesty, strength and courage is second to none in the world. His death was a great loss, for there was no one to take his place. There were, it is true, many of humble rank in the villages round Gujranwala, Lahore and Amritsar, of equal courage, simplicity and devotion to the interests of the country; but not among the intriguing Sardars at the Court. Had there been more chiefs like him the Sutlej campaign would never have been undertaken, and the Sikh nation would have preserved the independence which it madly threw away. Thakur Singh, the eldest son of Sardar Sham Singh, died before his father. He was a man of no ability, but served in Bannu and Peshawar as commandant of artillery under his father. He left three sons, to whom the *jagir* of Shekoran, worth Rs. 7,500, was assigned, to be maintained to their heirs in equal shares in perpetuity. These three Sardars, Jiwan Singh, Hari Singh and Ajit Singh, lived at Atari. On the close of the Sutlej campaign, Raja Lal Singh confiscated Rs. 1,59,300 of Sham Singh's *jagir*. Rs. 12,000 were lost by the abolition of the customs duty, and the balance was continued to Sardar Kahan Singh, subject to the service of ninety-seven horsemen, twenty-five foot, and ten *zamburas*. At Multan, in 1848, the contingent of Kahan





Singh was in the force of Raja Sher Singh. After his rebellion twenty-five sowars remained with the Raja, the rest came away with Shamsher Singh Sindhanwalia. Narayan Singh, Kahan Singh's Diwan, also exerted himself to supply the British army, both at Ganda Singhwala and Kasur, with provisions and carriage. For this loyalty the personal *jagir* of Kahan Singh was maintained at annexation; Rs. 7,500 to descend in perpetuity.

Sardar Kahan Singh was of weak intellect, and had been a confirmed invalid for some years before his death, which occurred in 1873. He had no male issue, and used to reside at Atari with his nephews. To one of them, Sardar Ajit Singh, was continued an allowance of Rs. 7,500 out of Kahan Singh's *jagir* of Rs. 35,500. The remainder was resumed. Sardar Ajit Singh was thus recognized as the representative and head of the family. He was one of the most able of the modern Sikhs of the Punjab being well educated in Urdu, and having some knowledge of English. In 1865 he was appointed Sub-Registrar of Atari, and in the following year was invested with magisterial powers. He worked at Amritsar for three years, gaining valuable experience, and thereby fitting himself for the sole charge of the Atari *ilaka* which was entrusted to him. In 1872 he passed with credit the departmental examination prescribed for Assistant Commissioners, and he was allowed to exercise full jurisdiction over two hundred villages around Atari. Three years later he was gazetted to the powers of a Collector on the Revenue side. In 1877 he received the rank of Assistant Commissioner, and in 1885 was admitted to the Order of the Indian Empire, in recognition of long and valuable services and as a representative of the leading gentlemen of the Province. Shortly afterwards he was appointed an Honorary Subordinate Judge, with power to dispose of Civil suits up to Rs. 5,000 in value.

Under the scheme of local self-government, inaugurated in 1885, Sardar Ajit Singh was elected President of the Amritsar District Board, which post he held for the remainder of his life. He took an active interest in agricultural improvements, and was for many years an active member of the cattle fair committee at Amritsar. He was a Fellow of the Punjab University and a member of the council of the Aitchison College. In fact, for twenty-five years before his death, which occurred in 1888, the Sardar held a prominent position as a loyal public servant and a valuable judicial and executive officer. He died at the age of forty-nine years, leaving five sons, four daughters and six widows. The eldest son, Sardar Balwant Singh, is the present head of the Atari family.





Lala Gurmukh Rai, one of the leading pleaders in Amritsar, was appointed manager of the estate and guardian, under the Court of Wards, of the children, who were then minors. The four elder boys were sent to the Aitchison College, Lahore. Sardar Ajit Singh's property, moveable and immoveable, was valued at five lakhs of rupees. The family *jagir* of Rs. 7,500 was continued to his eldest son, Sardar Balwant Singh, in addition to his father's personal *jagir* of Rs. 2,500. The income of the children from all sources was estimated, at the time of Ajit Singh's death, at Rs. 25,000.

Sardar Balwant Singh married in 1884 a daughter of the Sardar of Kalsia, and grand-daughter of His late Highness the Raja of Jind. His eldest son, Lajwant Singh, is at the Aitchison College. Harbans Singh, third son of Ajit Singh, married a daughter of Rao Umrao Singh of Kuchai. He holds about 1,200 *bighas* of land and his income is about Rs. 5,000.

Jaswant Singh, the fourth son, married the daughter of the *Rais* of Jarki in the Agra district. His *jagir* is worth about Rs. 4,000 per annum. He received a direct commission in the 11th K. E. O. Lancers and is now a Ressaldar. Kalwant Singh, the second son, died in 1906 and his widow is in possession of his share of the *jagir* worth about Rs. 2,200.

Basant Singh, the youngest son, was in the Imperial Cadet Corps and was appointed to the 29th Lancers (Deccan Horse); he died in 1905 and his son, Mahendra Singh, a minor, has succeeded to his *jagir* of about Rs. 4,000 yearly. Basant Singh married a daughter of Sardar Jwala Singh, a *Talukdar* of Oudh.

Sardar Jiwan Singh, brother of the Sardar Ajit Singh, was a Darbari and a member of the Amritsar Local Board. He died in 1894, and his property was divided between his sons. His eldest son, Partab Singh, is married to a daughter of Sardar Desa Singh of Mansurwal, Ferozepore district, and Changa Singh is married to a daughter of Sardar Kahan Singh, *Rais* and Honorary Magistrate of Majitha. The brothers own about 2,400 *bighas* of land in the villages of Atari, Naishta Kharianwala and Meeran, and have succeeded to their father's *jagir* of Rs. 2,500. Their aggregate income is said to be about Rs. 10,000.

Sardar Ajit Singh's third brother, Hari Singh, died in 1875, and his eldest son Jawand Singh in 1901, without issue. Chanda Singh has, therefore, inherited the whole of his father's property. He is a member of the District Board, and married a daughter of Colonel Budh Singh of





Manianwala. He owns about 3,300 *bighas* of land in addition to his father's *jagir* of Rs. 2,500. His total income is about Rs. 15,000. His eldest son, Surat Singh, was educated at the Aitchison College and given a direct commission as Jamadar in the 53rd Sikhs. He married a daughter of Sardar Jhanda Singh, *Rais* and Honorary Magistrate, Sobana. Sardar Hari Singh was a Provincial Darbari.

Returning to the junior branch, as has been before stated, it was not till the year 1800, when Nihal Singh Atariwala left the service of Sardar Sahib Singh Bhangi, that a feud arose between the cousins. Up to that time they had lived together and served the same masters, the Bhangi chiefs, at Lahore and Gujrat.

Of the sons of Kaur Singh, Tek Singh and Jodh Singh were the most distinguished, and under Sardar Sahib Singh enjoyed the greatest power and distinction. It was by their influence that Nihal Singh was compelled to leave the Bhangi service; and it was thus that the enmity, still strong at the present day, arose between the Atariwalas. Wazir Singh and Charat Singh were not men of any note. After the death of Sardar Tek Singh, his sons abandoned the service of Sahib Singh, and came over to the Maharaja, who was then carrying on operations against Kot Bari Khan. Without paying their respects to the Prince, they joined the battery of Mian Ghaus Khan and served throughout the siege; Hakim Singh receiving a wound in the forehead. After the capture of the fort, Ranjit Singh, pleased with their bold conduct, gave to the young men *jagirs* at Awan, Miani, and Bahu Chinah. Hakim Singh was present at the attack on Multan in 1810, and in 1812 accompanied the Maharaja to Jhelum, where he met Fateh Khan, the Kabul Wazir. The next year he died, and his sons being minors, his brother Jagat Singh succeeded to the *jagirs*; but when Jai Singh grew up, he received the *ilakas* of Miani and Tehna.

Jai Singh, son of Sardar Wazir Singh, in the year 1821, rebelled against the Maharaja. The story is that he, with his cousin Jagat Singh and Sardar Budh Singh Sindhanwalia, had conspired against the life of the Prince; and the two Atariwalas had entered the Saman Burj, intending to carry out their design, when the Maharaja suddenly appeared, and on enquiring of Jai Singh what was the matter, that Sardar was so confused and terrified that he allowed Ranjit Singh to guess at the plot against his life. At any rate, Jai Singh thought himself suspected, and retired to his fort of Kalar Kahar, which he hastily strengthened and garrisoned. A





force was sent against him under Misra Rallia Ram and other chiefs, and being defeated, Jai Singh fled across the Indus and took refuge with Dost Muhammad Khan, who was then rising into notice. Jai Singh had been sent a short time before this on a mission to Peshawar, where he had become very intimate with the Barakzai chief, and many a debauch they had had together in the Bagh Nura Khaka at Peshawar. Ranjit Singh was very jealous of any intimacy between his chiefs and persons of another nation, and on Jai Singh's return to Lahore treated him with much reserve and suspicion. Now that the Sardar had fallen into trouble, he naturally fled to his Afghan friend, by whom he was well received.

He accompanied Dost Muhammad and Muhammad Azim Khan in 1823 to Peshawar, when the Barakzai chiefs had determined to attack Ranjit Singh, who had taken Attock and was advancing towards Peshawar. One day, after a skirmish between the armies, the heads of thirty Sikhs were placed on the house of Jai Singh, who had excited the enmity of many of the Afghans; and he, taking the hint, left Peshawar and came in to Ranjit Singh at Akhora after the battle of Teri. He was not very cordially received and, though nominally forgiven, was never taken back into favour. He was one of the agents employed to bring about the meeting of the Maharaja with Yar Muhammad Khan and Dost Muhammad Khan at Peshawar after the retreat of Muhammad Azim Khan to Daka, when the Sikh chief rewarded their treason to their brother by dividing between them the province of Peshawar, which he was himself unable to hold.

Jai Singh died soon after this. His cousin Jai Singh, son of Hakim Singh, was killed at Dilasa in Bannu in 1834, when Diwan Tara Chand received a severe repulse from the Dilasa chief; and his brother Nar Singh succeeded to the Tehna and Awan estates, subject to the service of seventy horsemen. At the time of the Multan rebellion Nar Singh was in the enjoyment of an estate of Rs. 26,550, of which Rs. 17,500 was subject to service. On the 17th of September 1849, after Raja Sher Singh had joined the rebels, Nar Singh was placed under arrest in the Lahore fort. He does not appear to have been directly concerned in the rebellion, but his seventy sowars, with the exception of eight or ten, went over to the enemy, and his *jagirs* were consequently resumed. At the close of the war an allowance of Rs. 3,000 per annum was granted to him.

Sardar Jodh Singh entered the service of Ranjit Singh in 1805, after a brave but vain attempt to hold the fort of Kalar against that chief in the





interests of his master, Sahib Singh Bhangi. He was received with great favour, and obtained a grant of a large tract of country valued at two lakhs of rupees, in Pathwar, consisting of the *tapas* of Barsali, Bishandar, Saidpur and others, subject to the service of two hundred horsemen. Jodh Singh soon after this died, and his two sons, Partab Singh and Chatar Singh, succeeded to the *jagirs*. Partab Singh fought in the battle of Teri in 1823, when he was wounded in the hand. In the battle of Balakot, where Khalifa Sayad Ahmad was defeated and slain, Partab Singh was badly wounded, and, returning to his *jagir*, died some months later from the effects of his wound. His son Karam Singh died soon after, when still a child, and his share of the *jagir* fell to his first cousin Sher Singh. Sardar Chatar Singh was a good farmer; and his estates were much increased in value by his skill and care. He took no great share in politics during the reign of Ranjit Singh; but the family possessed great influence at Court, and in 1843 his daughter Tej Kaur was betrothed to the young Maharaja Dalip Singh. Sardar Chatar Singh was, however, entirely in the interests of Raja Gulab Singh of Jammu; and when a dispute, excited by Pandit Jala, arose between that Prince and his nephew Hira Singh, the Minister at Lahore, in December 1844, Chatar Singh took up arms in his own part of the country, which he held in the name of Raja Gulab Singh. Six months later, Gulab Singh, who was afraid of the influence and hostility of Prince Peshaura Singh, persuaded Jawahir Singh, who had risen to power in Lahore, to send Sardar Chatar Singh and Fateh Khan Tiwana against him. This task was not at all liked by Chatar Singh; for to a Sikh there was something sacred about even a reputed son of the old Maharaja: but he was unable to refuse, and with the Tiwana chief proceeded against Attock, whither Peshaura Singh had retired with a small force. After some days spent in negotiation, the Prince surrendered; the Sardars solemnly promising his safety and the full consideration of his claims at Lahore. But the next day, while on the march to the capital, he was taken off his guard, seized placed in irons and carried back to Attock, where he is believed to have been murdered the same night, and his body thrown into the Indus, which, dark and swift, flows by the fort. The army of the Khalsa were much incensed against Chatar Singh for this cruel and treacherous murder; but he took care to avoid Lahore till the troops, content with the blood of Jawahir Singh, had forgotten his share in the crime. Sardar Sher Singh, the eldest son of Chatar Singh, had, in 1844, been appointed Governor of Peshawar in the room of Sardar Tej Singh, who had been summoned to





Lahore. He was an able and spirited young man, and ruled that difficult district to the satisfaction of the Lahore Government. He successfully put down an insurrection in Yusufzai in 1846; but his administration, though vigorous, was unusually corrupt. Raja Lal Singh, the Minister at Lahore, was his bitter enemy; and in August 1846 Chatar Singh was appointed to succeed his son at Peshawar, while Sher Singh returned to Lahore. This appointment was held by Chatar Singh till April 1847; but his rule was no purer than that of his son. The corrupt practices which both indulged in seem to have astonished even the Lahore officials, and the annual embezzlements from the State revenue were estimated at from one and-a-half to two lakhs of rupees. It was impossible for this to be allowed; but the family was too powerful to be lightly offended, and too nearly connected with the Maharaja to be passed over; and accordingly Chatar Singh was made Governor of the country between the Jhelum and the Indus, where he possessed great authority; and Sher Singh received a seat in the Council. The latter was, however, by no means satisfied. He thought that on the fall of his enemy, Raja Lal Singh, he had a right to succeed him in his office, as he had succeeded him in the affections of the Maharani, and was angry at the failure of his hopes. Sher Singh would, perhaps, have been the best selection for Minister, but his claims were hardly as great as those of his father; and Chatar Singh was so completely in the hands of Maharaja Gulab Singh that he would have been a dangerous Minister at Lahore. But the Atariwalas at length appeared content. It was directed that the numerous claims in Peshawar against Sher Singh, amounting to upwards of half a lakh of rupees, should not be taken up; the Sardar paying Rs. 8,000 to some of the poorest claimants, who seemed to have the best grounds for complaint. This arrangement was considered very satisfactory by Sher Singh; and his brothers Gulab Singh and Atar Singh being provided for (the one in Hazara, the other in Lahore), he forgot his grievance about the *Wazarat*.

On the 7th August 1847, Sardar Chatar Singh received a Persian title of honour, at the recommendation of the Resident, at the same time that Sardar Tej Singh was created a Raja. On the 26th November, in the same year, Sher Singh received the title of Raja. This honour had been recommended for Chatar Singh; but at the last moment the Sardar requested that his son Sher Singh might be promoted instead, and the request was accordingly granted.





On the 18th April 1848 the outbreak occurred at Multan. Two British officers were treacherously attacked and slain, and Diwan Mul Raj stood forth as a rebel against the authority of the Lahore Government. The news of this outbreak reached Lahore on the 21st April; and the Resident immediately put in motion for Multan seven battalions of infantry, two regiments of regular cavalry, and twelve hundred irregular horse under Sardar Atar Singh Kalianwala. This force, which was accompanied by Raja Sher Singh, was recalled on the 26th to Lahore, as the Commander-in-Chief of the British Army was unwilling to send European troops to support it during the hot season to a part of the country with so bad a name for unhealthiness as Multan. However, it was necessary that something should be done; and the Resident was compelled to send against Multan a Sikh force under the command of Raja Sher Singh and Sardar Shamsher Singh and Atar Singh Kalianwala. The force consisted of one regular regiment and half an irregular infantry regiment, three thousand cavalry, ten guns and two mortars. Raja Sher Singh was Commander-in-Chief; but his more special command was the infantry, while the two other Sardars led the cavalry.

On the 12th of June the force was at Chichawatm, and ready to proceed but it was not thought expedient to hasten its march until some decided advantage had been gained over Mul Raj by Edwardes and the Bahawalpur troops. Sher Singh and his colleagues had no thought of treason; but their troops sympathized with the rebels, and would have been only too glad to have joined them. On the 22nd June Sher Singh reached Talamba. He was ordered to stop here; but either his troops were no longer under command, or, fancying that he could trust to their fidelity, he wished to join in the successes of the British, for the battle of Kaneri had now been fought. He advanced to Gugran, nine miles from the city of Multan. Lieutenant Edwardes then directed Sher Singh to join him, which he did, pitching his camp at Suraj Kund, three miles from Tibi, where Lieutenant Edwardes was encamped. He arrived at this place on the 6th of July.

Although the Sikh army was disposed to mutiny, the principal Sardars had sufficient influence to keep it tolerably steady, although many men deserted to Mul Raj; and on the 20th of July, Sher Singh co-operated with the force under the English officers with energy and success. Thus matters remained until the arrival of General Whish before Multan with a European force on the 18th of August.





Sardar Chatar Singh was at this time Governor of Hazara. His troops were notoriously mutinous; but he gave no notice to the British authorities of the disaffection, which he shared, and which he himself encouraged. Affairs were brought to a crisis on the 6th August by the murder of Colonel Canora, an American Commandant of Artillery in the Sikh service. He was ordered by Chatar Singh to bring the guns out of the fort of Haripur and to encamp on the open ground outside the city. This Colonel Canora, who suspected the treasonable intentions of Chatar Singh, refused to do unless with the sanction of Captain Abbott, Boundary Commissioner and Assistant to the Resident in Hazara. He placed himself between the gun, which he had loaded with grape, and threatened to fire on the first man who should approach. Chatar Singh persisted; and as the Colonel would not surrender his charge, a body of Sikh soldiers crept up behind and shot him dead. On the news of this murder reaching Lahore, the Resident despatched Sardar Jhanda Singh Batalia with a confidential agent from Chatar Singh's son, Gulab Singh, to try and induce the Sardar to surrender himself and permit his conduct to be investigated at Lahore. But Chatar Singh had decided on his course. The mission of Jhanda Singh failed; and that of Raja Dina Nath, sent to Hazara with a like object, was equally unsuccessful. Chatar Singh's force did not, at the time of his rebellion, exceed two thousand men; but it rapidly increased in numbers. He wrote for aid to his son at Multan, to Maharaja Gulab Singh and to Dost Muhammad Khan; raised levies in his own district of Pathwar, and used all means in his power to render his rebellion as formidable as possible.

On the 19th of August news of the outbreak in Hazara reached the camp of Raja Sher Singh before Multan. This chief had, in the midst of mutiny and ill-feeling, striven to do his duty to the Government. By severe punishment, and by promises of rewards, he had kept his troops firm; and, even when his father's letters reached him in August, he did not waver in his fidelity. He did not believe that his father was deeply compromised in the rebellion; and hoped that by the mediation of Sardar Jhanda Singh and Raja Dina Nath everything would be satisfactorily arranged. On the 1st of September, when the force of Edwardes had to change ground, and was attacked by the enemy, the Raja voluntarily brought out his guns and aided the movement. Again, on the 3rd of September, he cannonaded and threw into great confusion the troops of Mal Raj at the bridge, chiefly to destroy sympathy between his own men and the rebels. But early in





September still more urgent letters came from Hazara stating that Sardar Chatar Singh had rebelled beyond all forgiveness, and calling on Sher Singh and all true Sikhs to join him. Messengers from Hazara, and chief among them Sardar Surat Singh Majithia, excited the soldiery, saying that now was the time to expel the *Farangis* from the country, and that any Sardar who opposed the movement was an enemy to the Khalsa. The Sikh force became so dangerous that, on the 13th of September, it was resolved to remove it from Multan and from temptation. The Atariwala, Kaliauwala and Sindhanwalia divisions were to march in different directions; that of Sher Singh to the ferry, nominally to protect the passage of the river. The morning of the 14th was appointed for the march; but the soldiers would not move. The whole camp rose in mutiny, excited by Surat Singh and others; the Sardars were abused and threatened till their lives were no longer safe. And at last Raja Sher Singh, in desperation, went over to the side of the rebels, and with his whole force marched to Multan, where he encamped in the Hazuri Bagh, as the Diwan distrusted him and refused him admittance into the fort.

The defection of the force of Sher Singh compelled General Whish to raise the siege of Multan; but he only retired to the suburbs of the city, where he waited for reinforcements and siege guns. Sher Singh now did all in his power to extend the rebellion and make it a national one, and distributed inflammatory letters over the whole country calling on the Sikh nation to rise. But Mul Raj still thought him on the side of the British, or, if against them, desirous of obtaining the fort of Multan for the Khalsa; and he put no trust in his professions. He made Sher Singh with all his officers swear on the Sikh Scriptures that they had no evil designs; but, in spite of their oaths, not one of them was admitted within the city.

At length Sher Singh determined to join his father in Hazara. Mul Raj was delighted at his resolution, and lent him money to hasten his march; and on the 9th of October the Raja, with his force of five thousand and three hundred men, left Multan *en route* for Hazara. On the 11th he crossed the Ravi with his whole camp and marched in the direction of Jhang. Here his troops behaved very ill, defiling the mosques and plundering the Muhammadan inhabitants. Sher Singh was here joined by the Bannu troops who had mutinied, taken the fort of Dalipgarh and slain the brave Fateh Khan Tiwana; and continued his march along the Chenab in the direction of Wazirabad, which had been occupied by Lal Singh Moraria,





Chief Justice of the Sind-Sagar Doab, who had joined the rebels with two thousand irregulars.

Sardar Chatar Singh had during the month of October been intriguing on all sides. To the Barakzai Sardars he promised the province of Peshawar in return for their assistance; and he had succeeded in inducing the whole of the Sikh troops at Peshawar to join him. In spite of the efforts of some of their officers who remained firm to their duty, they revolted on the 24th of August, and marched to join Chatar Singh. Captain Abbott held out gallantly in Hazara; and Lieutenant Herbert defended the fort of Attock till the 2nd of January, when, being without hope of succour and his troops deserting to the enemy, he was compelled to fly. After the fall of Attock, Chatar Singh marched to join his son Sher Singh.

The army under the Raja had, on the 2nd November, received a severe check at Ram Nagar from the British under Lord Gough. The affair was entirely fought by the cavalry and artillery, and can hardly be called a battle. On the 1st of December, Sir Joseph Thackwell, with the advanced part of the army, crossed the Chenab and advanced against the Raja's position. Some sharp fighting took place in front of the entrenchments, but no attack was made upon the position; and on the night of the 3rd December Sher Singh retreated by the Jhelum, Jalalpur and Pind Dadan Khan roads, and took up a position at Chilianwala, where, on the 13th of January, the British army advanced to attack him. The accounts of this battle, creditable to the British arms, have been often written. It has been called a victory; but neither the Sikh Generals nor the soldiery considered that they had been defeated. All fought well; but the hero of the day was Jawahir Singh Nalwa, son of Hari Singh, the great Sikh General, who led the cavalry charge which had so great an influence on the result of the battle.

Two or three days after the battle, Sardar Chatar Singh joined his son's camp, being received with a royal salute; and bringing with him, as prisoners, Major George Lawrence and Lieutenants Herbert and Bowie. He had been successful in inducing Amir Dost Muhammad Khan to join him, having paid that Prince, as the price of his assistance, Rs. 30,000 in cash, Rs. 15,000 in shawls, and Rs. 15,000 he engaged to pay at Rawalpindi. For this consideration the Amir seized the province of Peshawar, co-operated in the siege of Attock, and sent a thousand cavalry under his son Akram Khan to join the army of Chatar Singh.





On the 21st of February the battle of Gujrat was fought, when the united Sikh and Afghan army was completely defeated with the loss of fifty-three guns. This was virtually the end of the war. The victory was followed up with vigour; and at Rawalpindi, on the 14th March, Chatar Singh and Sher Singh, together with what remained of the Sikh army, some sixteen thousand men, laid down their arms.

As far as regards the Atariwala Sardars, these were the chief incidents of the war; but it will not be here out of place to say a few words on the causes that led to it.

At the close of the Sutlej campaign, the Sikh army which had, since the death of Maharaja Ranjit Singh, been ever increasing in numbers, was in great measure disbanded. The Punjab villages were filled with a discontented soldiery, averse from peaceful occupations, and firmly believing that their late reverses were due to the treachery and incapacity of their leaders. These men were anxious to try their fortune once more on the field of battle. At the capital, Raja Lal Singh, the Minister, whom it was necessary for the English Government to support, was highly unpopular. By the troops, he was hated for his share in the Sutlej disaster and for his intrigues with the Maharani; by the Sardars, for his avarice, which cost many of them their *jagirs*. Even after his fall from power the new administration was hardly more popular. Raja Tej Singh was an incompetent man and an upstart. His rise had been owing more to his fortune than his abilities; and he was supposed to be entirely under the orders of the British Resident, Major H. Lawrence. There were many minor causes for discontent. Cow-killing was no longer allowed to be a crime; and the hated Muhammadans who had always under Sikh rule been a persecuted race, were allowed to practise their religious rites publicly and ostentatiously. The people at large, too, believed that the English never intended to leave the Punjab although the truth was that the British troops only remained at the earnest request of the principal Sardar, who dreaded a return of the anarchy which had preceded the Sutlej campaign. Thus there was plenty of materials for rebellion ready at hand; but the genius and political sagacity of Major Lawrence, and the confidence which the natives placed in him, might have preserved peace, had he not been compelled by bad health to leave the country at a most critical time.

The rebellion of 1848 began with the outbreak at Multan. This was entirely unpremeditated. There is no reason to believe that the attack on