



the British officers was made by the orders or with the connivance of Diwan Mul Raj, but when he had been compromised by that attack, he remembered that he had at his disposal immense wealth, devoted troops, and the strongest fortress in Upper India; while the power which could punish and avenge was far off, and, to him, almost unknown. Of two evils, he considered rebellion the lesser. Had a British force marched against Multan on the first news of the outbreak reaching Lahore, had the punishment followed the offence swiftly and decisively, the Sikhs would not have rebelled. But the delay in the punishment of one traitor allowed them to believe that treason might remain altogether unpunished.

The defection of Raja Sher Singh before Multan was also unpremeditated. Till the night of the 13th of September he remained firmly loyal in the presence of temptation, such as few men have ever been exposed to. His influence over his troops was great; and it is possible that he might have kept them to their duty till the close of the siege, had not the entreaties of his father induced him, much against his will, to join the rebel side. It was the rebellion of Sardar Chatar Singh which caused that of his son. There had been several insignificant outbreaks in outlying districts of the Punjab before that of Chatar Singh; but it was he who made the rebellion a national one and brought ruin upon the country.

What, then, were the reasons for Chatar Singh's conduct? Why was he thus disaffected while his son was actively loyal? It is difficult to believe that he was ambitious for himself. He was an old, broken-down man, and a confirmed invalid. His intellect, never brilliant, had become weakened by ill-health and advancing age. He had long talked of abandoning worldly affairs and going on a pilgrimage to the Ganges; and he had declined a Rajaship in favour of his son. Nor could he have hoped to benefit his son by the expulsion of the English from the Punjab. Sher Singh had been placed at the head of the Sikh aristocracy by the British; and he might reasonably hope, in time, to obtain the Ministership at Lahore, and the guardianship of the young Prince to whom his sister was betrothed. This engagement, too, gave the family more importance in the eyes of the English than of the Sikhs; for, as the young Maharaja grew up, he would probably marry many other wives; and in the Punjab the influence of a wife is little felt outside the walls of the *Zanana*. Sher Singh was well content with his own prospects, and there was no reason that Chatar Singh should be dissatisfied. It was at one time asserted that the suspicions of



Captain Abbott drove Chatar Singh into treason ; but that able officer only suspected where there was good reason for suspicion ; and the correctness of his judgment has been fully proved.

Sardar Chatar Singh was a weak and a timid man, and was ever accustomed to depend upon the advice of men wiser and more determined than himself. There was one man upon whom, more than upon all others, he was accustomed to rely, and this was Maharaja Gulab Singh. There had not been an intrigue in the Punjab for many years past in which Gulab Singh had not been engaged, and from which he had not reaped advantage. The most accomplished of courtiers, the most subtle of diplomatists, the most unscrupulous of intriguers, Chatar Singh found him the most dangerous of friends. The friendship between these men was of the closest description. When the brother of Chatar Singh died, it was the influence of Gulab Singh that procured for the Sardar the grant of half his estates, to the prejudice of the son of the deceased. In the troubles under Raja Hira Singh, Chatar Singh had stood boldly by his friend, and for his sake became an accomplice in the murder of Prince Peshaura Singh. The Sardar would never have determined on rebellion without consulting Gulab Singh ; but, even had he so determined, Gulab Singh could without difficulty have dissuaded him from it.

Although the proofs of Gulab Singh's complicity in the rebellion might fail to satisfy a Court of Law, yet there is sufficient evidence for history to decide against him. In the first place, there is the universal belief, shared by the late Dost Muhammad Khan, that Gulab Singh was the instigator of the rebellion, and that against his will Chatar Singh would not have raised his hand. The evidence of Hira Nand, the agent sent by Chatar Singh to the Maharaja, recorded in October 1849, though in many parts exaggerated and contradictory, bears the general stamp of truth. If his evidence is received, there can be no doubt of the Maharaja's connection with the rebels. Hira Nand does not appear to have had any reason for accusing the Maharaja unjustly ; and his evidence is confirmed in many important particulars by other witnesses whose depositions were subsequently taken. No documentary evidence of any importance was discovered ; but the most wily of men was not likely to commit himself by writing what might be verbally explained, or expressed by a sign, or by the pressure of a finger. This much at least is certain, that families of rebels took shelter in the Maharaja's territories ; that rebel troops marched through them unmolested, and drew



from thence their supplies; and that, though his professions were large, the aid he rendered to the Lahore Government was trifling in the extreme.

But, with all this, it is impossible to believe that Maharaja Gulab Singh desired the defeat of the British. Gratitude for the grant of Kashmir, any other man than Gulab Singh might be expected to feel, but putting this aside, he was well aware that his existence as a Sovereign Prince depended upon the presence of British troops in the Punjab. He induced Chatar Singh to rebel, because he desired his destruction and that of his son; because he hoped for the subversion of the Lahore monarchy and the establishment of British supremacy in the Punjab. He perceived that if the country remained tranquil the British would, as agreed, leave it, and Raja Sher Singh obtain power; and he also knew that in that case the Sikh arms would be first turned against him. He had been more surprised than any one else at finding himself Sovereign of Kashmir; and he knew that the loss of this Province was looked upon by the whole Sikh nation with shame and rage: for it had been won with difficulty by the old Maharaja, and with the blood of many brave Sardars. Nor were the Sikhs his only fear. Dost Muhammad Khan remembered that Kashmir had once belonged to Kabul, and was ready to attack it at the first opportunity. It was for this that he made an alliance with the Sikhs, whom he hated, and intrigued with the wild Muhammadan tribes of Hazara. Between the Sikhs and the Afghans, Gulab Singh was well aware that without British aid he must inevitably fall.

His policy being thus in favour of the English, the reasons that caused him to refrain from giving active assistance to them are plain. He could not, being himself the instigator of the rebellion, directly oppose it, without exciting great hatred against himself. Sikhs and Afghans would have united against him, and would have overrun Kashmir, while the British troops were barely able to hold their own in the plains. He waited until some decided success of the British army should enable him to declare himself, heart and soul, on its side. But after Chilianwala he began to doubt whether the English could really hold the country. The decisive overthrow of the Sikhs in 1845 had made him believe that with a larger force, and with far greater advantages of position, possessing, as they did, Lahore and Amritsar, the English would again obtain an easy victory. Even their temporary retirement would be fatal to him; and thus, when he saw the first portion of the campaign undecisive and unsatisfactory, he trembled for



the result, and did not dare to break with the Sikhs. Had Gulab Singh joined the English openly and boldly, the campaign might have been more quickly decided. But this was not possible to him. His caution and hesitation in deciding on a plan were equal to his boldness and vigour in its execution. Every course presented to his keen intellect so many dangers, that he ever forebore to act until circumstances forced him into action. Though personally brave and fond of war, it was by fraud, not by force, that his policy was distinguished. Throughout his whole life he had never joined a losing party, or even a winning one, until its success was undoubted and assured. The policy of Maharaja Gulab Singh was thus completely successful. The Sikhs were conquered; the Afghans driven ignominiously from the Punjab; and the astute contriver of their downfall ruled in peace under the strong protection of the only nation he had ever learnt to trust.

The evidence against Maharaja Gulab Singh, however convincing it may appear to those who have studied the history of the times, must still be admitted to be incomplete and indecisive. No evidence in his favour was ever heard, and if Diwan Jwala Sahai and other of his confidential agents were examined they might have explained many points which now appear most suspicious. Whatever hand Gulab Singh may have had in the rebellion of Chatar Singh, he was not the sole cause of the Second Sikh War. The old Khalsa army and the whole Sikh nation, which was, by constitution and creed, military, would never have settled down peaceably under British rule without another trial of strength; without a defeat which, like that of Gujrat, left them no option but that of submitting to the stronger. Even the troops of Sardar Chatar Singh were thoroughly disaffected; and without any aid or instigation from Gulab Singh, they would in all probability have sooner or later rebelled. The Maharaja was, at all events, not hostile to the British. If he desired and plotted for the downfall of the Sikh empire, it is impossible to blame him; for the Sikhs hated him fully as much as he did them, and would have seen his ruin with the utmost satisfaction.

Sardar Chatar Singh, Raja Sher Singh and Sardar Atar Singh, who had also joined the rebels, were placed under surveillance at Atari; but being discovered carrying on a treasonable correspondence, they were in January 1850 sent as prisoners, first to Allahabad, and then to Calcutta. Their estates were all confiscated. Chatar Singh, before the war, possessed *jagirs* of the value of Rs. 1,22,000; Rs. 57,000 being personal and Rs. 65,000 subject to service. Raja Sher Singh and his brother had personal



jagirs worth Rs. 42,220. An allowance was granted them of Rs. 7,200; being Rs. 2,400 each to Chatar Singh, Sher Singh and Atar Singh. Gulab Singh did not join the rebels, being under surveillance at Lahore. He had been placed with his brother Sher Singh in charge of the young Maharaja and the household arrangements of the palace; and he was evidently preparing to leave Lahore and join his father when he was arrested on the 17th September, and detained in safe custody till the close of the war. Nothing was, however, proved against him; and his pension of Rs. 3,000 was equal in amount to what he had received in land previous to the war.

Bibi Tej Kaur was never married to Maharaja Dalip Singh. After the war the match was broken off, and she eventually married Janmeja Singh, son of Sardar Ishwar Singh Gil Mariwala, by whom she had two sons. She died in 1863. In January 1854, Chatar Singh, Sher Singh and Atar Singh, whose conduct since annexation had been irreproachable, were released from confinement and allowed to choose their own place of residence, within certain limits. Their allowances were also raised; that of Chatar Singh to Rs. 8,000, and of Sher Singh to Rs. 6,000. During the Burmese, the Persian and the Sonthal campaigns, Raja Sher Singh offered his services to Government, and he even volunteered for service in China. When the mutinies broke out, Sardar Gulab Singh received a command, and served throughout the war with distinguished gallantry. He received the title of Captain and, with his brothers Teja Singh and Atar Singh, the grant of a *zamindari* in Oudh, worth Rs. 28,800 per annum. Each of the brothers also held a life pension Rs. 7,200, raised to that amount on the death of Raja Sher Singh, which took place at Benares in 1858.

Raja Sher Singh, according to Hindu ideas, obliterated all the faults of his life by the sanctity of his death. When he felt his end approaching, he called the Brahmans to his bed-side, and asked of them how he could escape transmigration, the constant and life-long terror of Hindus. They told him that for seven days he must lie, fasting, by the Ganges, listening to the *Bhagawat*, the most sacred of all the eighteen *Puranas*. So, morning after morning, the dying Raja was carried to the river-side; and throughout the day he listened, as well as his fading senses would allow, to the words of the *Puran*. On the evening of the seventh day he gave Rs. 2,000 to the Brahmans, and died. Thus, an exile, far from his country, in the sacred city of Benares, and by the waters of the holy river, died before his time Raja Sher Singh.



His father Sardar Chatar Singh had died early in the same year at Calcutta. Of Sardar Chatar Singh's four sons Atar Singh elected to live at Rai Bareilly in the North-West Provinces, and gradually severed his connection with the Punjab. He died in 1897 and has been succeeded by his son Prem Singh, whose *Talukdari* income is about Rs. 28,000.

The case of Captain Gulab Singh was taken up warmly by his old friend and companion in arms, Lord Napier of Magdala, when Commander-in-Chief in India. Sir Henry Davies also interested himself in the Sardar's behalf, and in 1872 cancelled the order forbidding him to reside in the Punjab. Thereafter the Sardar was regarded as the representative of the junior branch of the Atari family. He took up his abode at Amritsar in 1878. He was gazetted as a Magistrate in 1884, and in the same year was attached to the Staff of the Viceroy as Aide-de-Camp on the occasion of the visit of His Excellency the Marquis of Ripon to Lahore. Two years later he was appointed a councillor to the Maharaja of Jammu and Kashmir on a salary of Rs. 12,000 per annum. He was a Provincial Darbari. He died in 1887 leaving an only son, Nihal Singh, then aged four years. The Sardar at the time of his death was possessed of property at Rai Bareilly and Atari valued at seven lakhs of rupees, yielding an income of about Rs. 17,000 per annum. The estate was placed in the charge of Lala Gurmukh Rai of Amritsar, under the control of the Court of Wards. The minor received from the British Government an allowance of Rs. 3,600 per annum, and from the Maharaja of Jammu a similar grant. The late Sardar was a gentleman of some culture, and had made himself popular by his generosity, liberal spirit and kindly ways. He was admired and respected by the best men of the upper classes in the Punjab as well as by every British officer who had the privilege of knowing him. His sudden death, from heart disease, at a comparatively early age, was regarded by all as a heavy loss to the Sikh community.

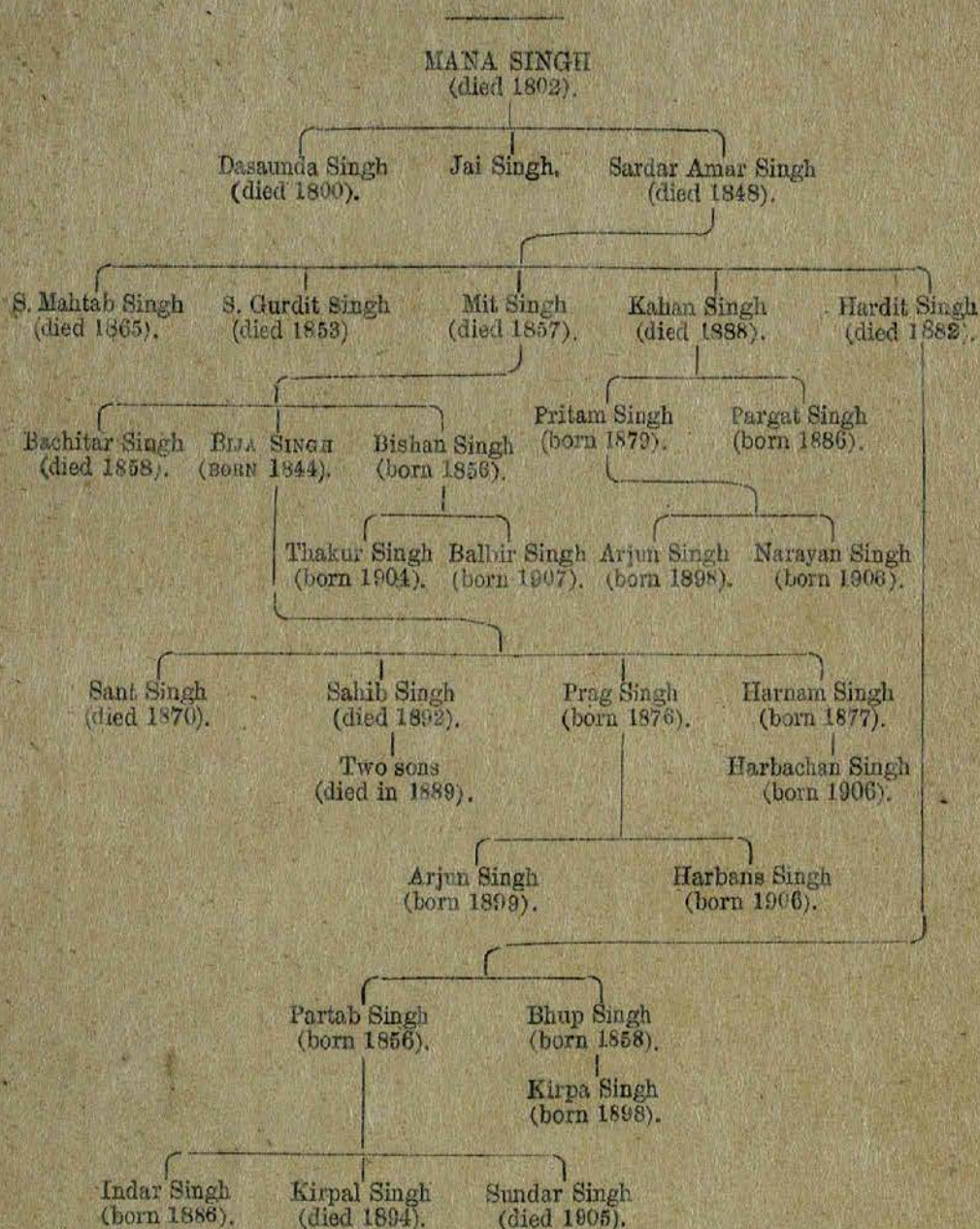
Nihal Singh proceeded to England in 1904 to complete his education. His property is now worth about Rs. 25,000 per annum.

Narayan Singh, son of Sardar Teja Singh, died in 1906, and was succeeded by his son Amar Singh, whose *taluk* in Oudh is worth about Rs. 25,000 yearly.



CHIEFS AND FAMILIES OF NOTE.

BIJA SINGH, MAJITHIA.



Mana Singh was a follower of Sardar Charat Singh Sukarchakia, grandfather of Maharaja Ranjit Singh. He fought with his lord against the Chathas, and received a service *jagir* of Rs. 4,000. Under Sardar Mahan Singh he also served, and received the *jagir* of Jada, in the Jhelum district. When Ranjit Singh took Lahore in 1799, Mana Singh was an old man, but he was still active and fought in the



campaign of 1802. He was killed in that year before the fort of Chiniot, which Ranjit Singh was endeavouring to capture from Jassa Singh Bhangi. Dasaunda Singh, the eldest son, had died in his father's life-time, and the whole *jagir* was resumed.

As soon as Amar Singh was old enough to bear arms, the Maharaja gave him the villages of Talanwala and Shaikhupur, worth Rs. 1,500, and placed him in the Dera Khas, a regiment of irregular cavalry composed of the sons of the Sikh nobility. At the siege of Multan in 1813, the young Amar Singh displayed gallantry, and for his services in this campaign received the *ilaka* of Majra. The next year, after the Kashmir campaign, he obtained a grant of Jada, which had been held by his father Mana Singh. He was sent to reduce the Rokhri insurgents in the Shahpur district who had refused to pay the revenue, and his expedition was quite successful. In 1834 he accompanied the army under Prince Nao Nihal Singh and Sardar Hari Singh Nalwa to Peshawar, when that province was formally annexed to the Sikh empire. He was employed in this campaign on outpost duty, and many a severe fight he had with the Afghans. At Shabkadar he was wounded by a musket-ball in a night attack made by the Afghans in force; but, although taken by surprise, he rallied his men and drove back the enemy.

At the battle of Jamrud, on the 30th April 1837, Sardar Amar Singh commanded the centre of the Sikh army, consisting of the Maharaja's Orderly troops, called the Jamadarwala Dera, and a thousand irregular cavalry, and distinguished himself by his conspicuous bravery; but the Afghans were very numerous, and the Sikh army was defeated with the loss of the General. The last expedition of Sardar Amar Singh was in 1843 in Kachi, where an insurrection had broken out, which he quickly suppressed. He did not serve in the Sutlej campaign, and on its close, being a celebrated marksman, was chosen to instruct the young Maharaja Dalip Singh in shooting. The next year he left the Punjab on a pilgrimage to Hardwar, where he soon after died.

Mahtab Singh was born in the year 1811, and when quite a boy was placed in the irregular cavalry as Subadar. In 1831, just before the visit of the Maharaja to Rupar, he was made a Colonel and stationed at Amritsar in charge of two regiments. In 1834 he accompanied his father Amar Singh to Peshawar, and served with distinction throughout



the campaign. In the same year his second brother, Gurdit Singh, entered the Maharaja's service. In 1839 Mahtab Singh served under Sardar Tej Singh in the Afridi expedition. He was made a General by Maharaja Sher Singh in 1841, and was stationed at Peshawar in command of four battalions and twenty-six guns, with an Akal regiment. His conduct to the British force, which arrived at Peshawar early in 1842, on the second Kabul expedition, was most unfriendly and hostile. After the assassination of Maharaja Sher Singh and Raja Dhian Singh, the General, who had returned to Lahore, gave his assistance to Raja Hira Singh against the Sindhanwalias; and after the restoration of peace his conduct was remembered with gratitude by Hira Singh, who bestowed upon him valuable presents. This did not, however, prevent Mahtab Singh from turning against the Minister when he became unpopular. He was privy to the conspiracy against the lives of Raja Hira Singh and Pandit Jala, and his were among the troops who pursued and put them to death. Concerned with him in this conspiracy was General Mewa Singh Majithia, whose real name was Sultan Singh, a distant relative of Mahtab Singh, and an implacable enemy of the Wazir.

The conduct of Mahtab Singh in thus plotting the destruction of a man for whom he professed devoted friendship does not seem amiable, but his motives were perfectly clear. He, with the army and the whole Sikh nation, was weary of the rule of the arrogant and debauched youth who owned all the Dogra vices, without their ability, their strength or their courage. The influence of Pandit Jala was still more odious, and as Hira Singh would not give him up it was necessary that they should fall together. There were, besides, private grounds of hatred. Sardar Amar Singh, father of Mahtab Singh, had in the Kachi expedition given some four or five thousand rupees to his soldiers, who had behaved admirably, expecting to be reimbursed by the Government; but Pandit Jala, knowing that when the treasury was full, there was more for him to plunder, refused to repay any portion of the sum; which so disgusted Amar Singh that he resigned the service. Again, Mahtab Singh had himself been tricked by Hira Singh in the affair of Bawa Bir Singh, the great Sikh Guru. By soft words and presents and promises, he had been induced to lead his troops against Sardar Atar Singh Sindhanwalia; by treachery, an action had been forced on, and at its close the holy



Bawa was found dying on the ground; and Mahtab Singh could not but feel himself in some measure the cause of his death. But even if his own conscience was clear, he did not escape the reproaches of the Sikh army and people; and his brigade, with that of General Court, commanded by Gulab Singh *Calcuttia*, and the Dera Charyari commanded by Jawahir Mal Dat, was long known by the name of *Gurumar* (slayers of the Guru).

Mahtab Singh served throughout the Sutlej campaign. He, like many others of the Sikhs, thought only of victory, and promised the treasury *munshis* to bring them silver penholders from the spoil of Delhi. After the campaign he was made a Sardar by Raja Lal Singh, and both he and his brother Gurdit Singh, who had risen to the rank of General, were stationed at Peshawar; but in May 1847 he was transferred to Pind Dadan Khan. He was at this time no favourite with the Darbar, and there was but one man, Sardar Sher Singh Atariwala, who had a word to say in his favour; but the influence of Major Lawrence, the Resident, prevented his dismissal. When the rebellion broke out in 1848 in the north of the Punjab, Sardar Mahtab Singh was stationed at Rawalpindi with five hundred horse under Major Nicholson. His conduct was spoken of in the highest terms by that officer. His troops, with his brother Mit Singh, remained faithful to the Lahore Government throughout the war and fought on the side of the British at the battle of Gujrat. On the annexation of the Punjab, all the personal *jagirs* of the Sardar, amounting to Rs. 9,485, were released for two lives, and in 1862 one-half of this *jagir* was maintained to his lineal descendant in perpetuity.

In 1857 Sardar Mahtab Singh raised some horsemen for service in Hindustan, where they were sent under the command of his nephew Bachitar Singh. This force served with credit in Oudh, and was engaged several times with the mutineers. Bachitar Singh died of cholera at Cawnpore in 1858. His brother Bija Singh succeeded him as Jamadar.

Mit Singh, who was a Colonel in the Sikh army in 1844, died in 1857. Kahan Singh succeeded his father in command of the contingent in 1843, and Hardit Singh was General of Maharaja Dalip Singh's juvenile force.

Sardar Mahtab Singh resided at Majitha up to the time of his death in 1865. He owned houses both at Lahore and Amritsar, at which latter

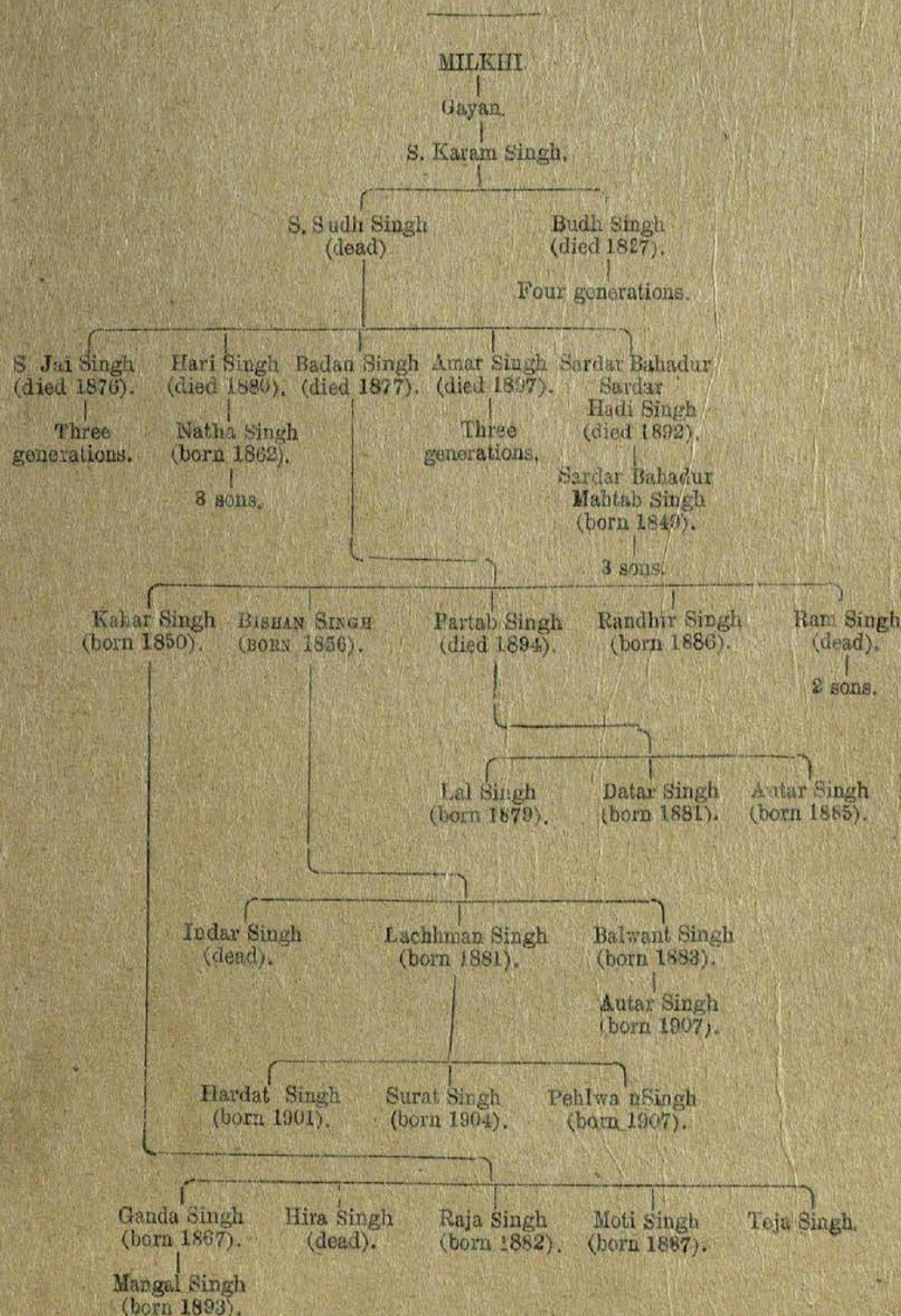


place he was in 1862 created an Honorary Magistrate. He was a great sportsman, and spent a large part of his time at Kapurthala with the Ahluwalia Raja, with whom he was very intimate. His only daughter was married to Sardar Bakhshish Singh Sindhanwalia. She died childless in 1889. Of Sardar Mit Singh's sons Bija Singh, now the head of the family, married a daughter of the celebrated Generl Kahan Singh Man, of Multan fame. He and his sons lead a very retired life, but his brother Bishan Singh, who was a Risaldar in the 16th Bengal Cavalry and has retired on a pension, is a man of considerable influence. He owns nearly all the land in the family and has property in the districts of Amritsar and Gujranwala. He is much respected in the district, where he is of the greatest assistance to recruiting officers in securing good recruits. He resides at Majitha and is married to a daughter of Risaldar Lehna Singh of Mananwala and also to a sister of Colonel Jiwan Singh of Patiala, a relative of the Patiala and Dholpur chiefs.

Sardar Kahan Singh, who was an Honorary Magistrate, died in 1888, leaving two sons, Pritam Singh and Pargat Singh. The former received a direct commission in the 23rd Sikh Pioneers and is now a Subadar, and the latter is a member of the Municipal Committee of Majitha. Both were educated at the Aitchison College, Lahore. Sardar Hardit Singh died in 1882 and his son Partab Singh resides at Amritsar where he is a brick contractor. His other son Bhup Singh was given a direct commission in the 22nd Punjabis, but after two years' service resigned and became an Adjutant in the Jammu Forces, a post he held for seven years.



BISHAN SINGH OF CHHINAH.





An ancestor of this family, Miru, a Jat of the Gil tribe, founded the village of Chhinah, some five miles from Raja Sansi in the Amritsar district, about the year 1600. His eldest son Dadu founded a second village of the same name near Jestarwal, and here his descendants have resided to the present day. The family were simple peasants till the time of Milkhi, who joined the confederacy of Tara Singh Shahid. Of Milkhi's descendant the most distinguished was Karam Singh, whom Tara Singh, who had no children of his own, adopted. After Tara Singh's death Karam Singh joined the Bhangi *Misal* and took possession of Firozki, Kalaki, Rurki and Bajra in the Sialkot district, besides holding Chhinah and the neighbouring villages. All the Bhangi Sardars fell, one by one, before Ranjit Singh, and Karam Singh shared the common fate and lost all his estates; but no long time afterwards he received back in *jagir* Chhinah, Nagran and Firozki, worth Rs. 50,000, subject to the service of seventy horsemen. With his two sons, Sudh Singh and Budh Singh, he served in many campaigns: Multan, Kashmir and Peshawar; and on his death the *jagir* descended to his sons in equal shares.

Through all the changes which ensued on the death of Ranjit Singh, the *jagir* remained undiminished till, in 1846, Raja Lal Singh reduced it to Rs. 21,600, subject to the service of twenty-five horsemen. Two years later most of the members of the family joined the rebels under Sher Singh, and fought in their ranks throughout the war. Accordingly, on annexation the shares of Jai Singh, Mehr Singh, Hari Singh, Hardit Singh, Amar Singh, Atar Singh and Fateh Singh were resumed; and an allowance of Rs. 240 was granted to each of them for life. The confiscated shares amounted to Rs. 15,725 per annum, and only Badan Singh and Mahan Singh, who had remained loyal, were allowed to retain their shares, amounting to Rs. 5,875, of which Rs. 1,750 were personal and Rs. 4,125 subject to service.

During the Mutiny, Jai Singh, Hardit Singh and Amar Singh entered Hodson's Horse, Jai Singh as Risaldar, Hardit Singh as Jamar-dar, and served with that distinguished corps till February 1859, when, on the general reduction, Jai Singh and Amar Singh obtained their discharge. The former received a grant of a life *jagir* of Rs. 300, and the latter 50 *ghumaos* of land free of revenue in Rakh Othian, tahsil Ajnala.

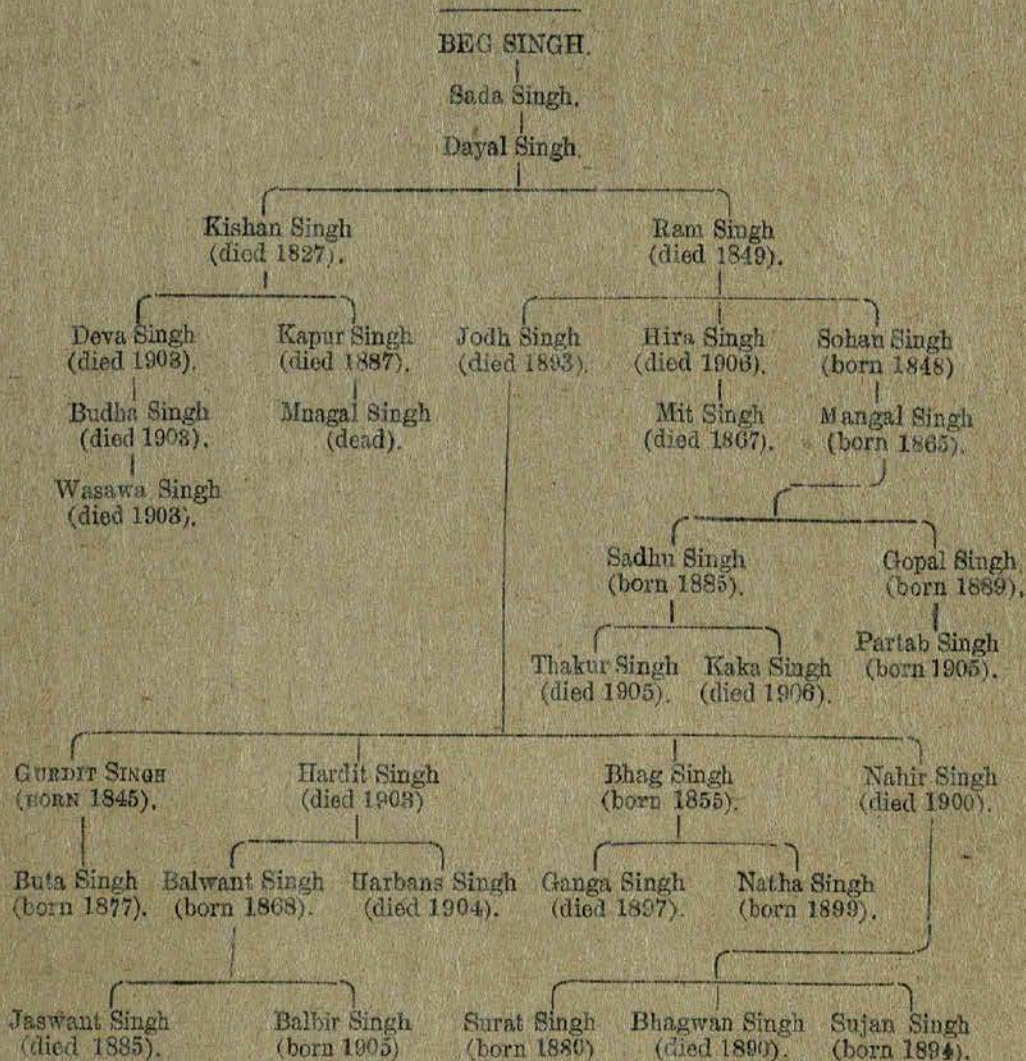


Hardit Singh served as Risaldar-Major, with the title of Sardar Bahadur, in the 9th Bengal Lancers. He became a Provincial Darbari in succession to his deceased brother Sardar Jai Singh in 1876, and was recognised as the head of the family. He died in 1892. His son Mahtab Singh was a Risaldar-Major in the 6th Bengal Cavalry. For his services in the Egyptian campaign of 1882 Mahtab Singh was rewarded with the title of Sardar Bahadur. Sardar Jai Singh's pension and *jagir* lapsed on his death in 1876. His widow was allowed a pension of Rs. 120 per annum for a term of twelve years, as a help towards the maintenance of the younger children. She died in 1888. Sardar Hari Singh's allowances lapsed, in like manner, in 1880 with continuance of Rs. 120 per annum to his son Natha Singh. Sardar Badan Singh died in 1877, leaving five sons, to whom Government continued one-third of their father's *jagir* in *Mauzas* Chhinah and Chak, valued at Rs. 360 per annum. Two of his sons, Partab Singh and Ram Singh, are dead and their shares of the *jagir* have been resumed. His second son, Bishan Singh, on Hardit Singh's death was accepted as the representative of the family. He has been of the very greatest assistance in the enlistment of recruits for the Native Army and recruiting officers have cause to be grateful to him. He enjoys jointly with his brothers, Kahar Singh and Randhir Singh in equal shares, the remaining portion of the *jagir* mentioned above, worth Rs. 216 and also owns 650 *kanals* of land at *Mauza* Chhinah Karam Singh. He is married into the family of the Ghanaoli Sardars of Bharatgarh in the Ambala district. Both his sons Lachhman Singh and Balwant Singh have obtained direct commissions, the former being a Subadar in the 26th Punjabis and the latter a Jamadar in the 45th Sikhs. Datar Singh, a nephew of Sardar Bishan Singh, is in the employ of the Patiala Darbar and is married to a relative of Sardar Gurmukh Singh, *c.i.e.*, President of the Council of Regency. Teja Singh, another nephew, is a Jamadar in the 19th Punjabis.

The family is also connected by marriage with the Sardars of Bunga, Kandaula and Raja Sansi (Amritsar), and may still be regarded as having considerable local influence.



GURDIT SINGH, CHAPAWALA.



Dayal Singh, son of a poor cultivator of Dadubajra in the Sialkot district, entered the force of Tara Singh Kanhaya as a trooper. He served his master in many expeditions, and received from him a *jagir*, worth Rs. 5,000, in the Pathankot district. On the death of Tara Singh great disputes regarding the succession arose between his sons, and in one of the fights which ensued Dayal Singh was killed and his *jagir* seized by the conqueror. His two sons, Kishan Singh and Ram Singh, were thus thrown upon the world as poor as their father when he commenced his career. They went into the Amritsar district to the village of Chapa, where their father had first settled on leaving his home, and where, on a rising ground, he had built a *chapa* or wooden



fence round his house, which gave its name to the family and the village.

Maharaja Ranjit Singh took the brothers into his service, and gave them the command of five hundred sowars, under the orders of Prince Kharak Singh. Kishan Singh was killed in battle in 1827, and his brother, who had distinguished himself on the same occasion, received a grant of seven villages in the Amritsar district. When Chet Singh, the favourite of Kharak Singh, was murdered, the Prince, who had always been fond of Ram Singh, gave him charge of his private seal, and *jagirs* in the Amritsar and Shahpur districts. Nao Nihal Singh, son of Kharak Singh, had no love for his father's friends, and threatened to imprison Ram Singh, which he would probably have done had he himself not been killed on the day of his father's incremation. Under Sher Singh, Ram Singh received various military commands, and his personal *jagir* was raised to Rs. 15,000 per annum through the interest of Raja Dhian Singh, whom he had been accustomed to supply with private information regarding Maharaja Kharak Singh.

In 1847 Sardar Ram Singh was sent in command of some irregular horse to Bannu under Sardar Shamsher Singh Sindhanwalia, who was in command of the Sikh force sent by the Darbar to assist Edwardes in the settlement and pacification of the district. He was the chief instigator of the rebellion of the Sikh force at Dalipgarh in 1848. Fateh Khan Tiwana, an enemy of Ram Singh, was in charge of the fort which the Sikhs besieged. It was gallantly defended, but the garrison had no water and were unable to hold out; Fateh Khan was killed and the fort captured. There was a Malik of one of the Tapas of Mudan, by name Mir Alam Khan, with whom Ram Singh had struck up a great friendship, and to whom he had advanced money to enable him to pay his arrears of revenue. Very much through the assistance of this man the fort was reduced, and it was left in his charge when Ram Singh with the Sikh force marched to join Raja Sher Singh.

Sardar Ram Singh was one of the bravest officers in the Sikh army. He fought with great gallantry at Ramnagar and Chilianwala, and was one of the few men of note killed in the battle of Gujrat. The whole *jagirs* of the family were confiscated for rebellion; but in 1857 Deva Singh entered the service of Government as a Risaldar; and his houses and those of Jodh Singh, his cousin, were released. Deva Singh also

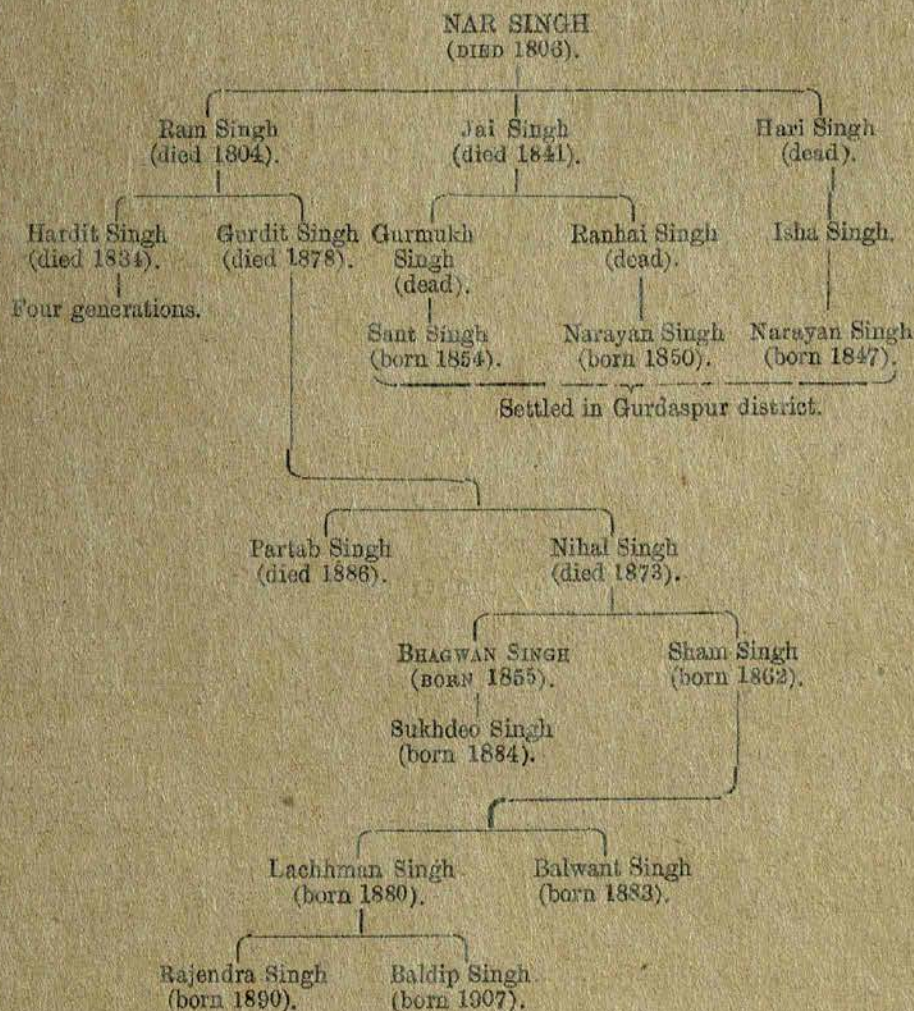


received a grant of waste land in Amritsar district. He, with his son and grandson, died of plague in 1903. Their widows are in possession of their land, which amounts to some 350 acres.

Sardar Jodh Singh, who was a Provincial Darbari died in 1893, and his property of 100 *ghumaos* of land was divided amongst his four sons equally. The eldest, Gurdit Singh, succeeded his father as *ala lambardar* of Chapa and is also a *safedposh*. Jodh Singh enjoyed a small pension which was resumed on his death. His brother Sohan Singh is still in receipt of a pension of Rs. 60 per annum.



BHAGWAN SINGH CHAMIARI, RANDHAWA.



The founder of the Chamiari family was not Nar Singh, the true ancestor of the family, but Sawal Singh, a distant connection, who about the year 1750 adopted the Sikh faith and became a member of the Bhangi *Misal*. He fought for his chief, Hari Singh, in many battles but does not appear to have neglected his personal interests ; as a few years later we find him the possessor of a large tract of country on the left bank of the Ravi, including Ajnala and Chamiari, or Chambyari, from which place the family took its name. Sawal Singh was killed in battle leaving no issue ; but his widow, Mai Malkian, made over the estate to Nar Singh, a cousin of her deceased husband and his devoted follower, a brave and enterprising man. This arrangement was confirmed by the *gurmatha* or



Sikh national council, and Nar Singh, the acknowledged heir of all Sawal Singh's estates, went forth conquering and to conquer. Not content with the Amritsar side of the river, he invaded the Sialkot district, and took possession of Pasrur and many villages in its vicinity. He then transferred his services to the rising Kanhaya Misal, and at Nunar in the Sialkot district had a sharp fight with his old allies. The young Sukarchakia chief, Mahan Singh, was on his side, and opposed to him were Jhanda Singh and all the bravest of the Bhangi chiefs. The origin of the quarrel was trivial enough. Nar Singh passing through one of Jhanda Singg's villages had turned his horses into a field of young corn to graze. The Bhangi chief came down in great wrath and insisted on their removal. Nar Singh refused to interrupt his horses at their meal. This insult Jhanda Singh was unable to endure, and, collecting all his men and making as many allies as he was able, he marched against Nar Singh, who was prepared to meet him. The fight was not decisive, and soon afterwards Nar Singh disgusted his Sukarchakia friends by giving his daughter Karam Kaur in marriage to Amar Singh, nephew of Sardar Jhanda Singh. He did not, however, openly break with the Sukarchakias, and in 1799 we find him assisting the son of Mahan Singh to capture Lahore.

Nar Singh died in 1806. His eldest son Ram Singh died some months before him of cholera in the camp of Jaswant Rao Holkar, the Mahrata chief. On his death, Ranjit Singh took possession of the greater portion of the family estates, including the Sialkot villages and the *Talukas* of Sadowal, Ghaniwala and Chamiari. The town of Chamiari was left in the possession of the family who still hold it in proprietary right.

Chamiari is a very ancient town; and there are several legends regarding its origin, which may be given here. One of these relates that Raja Salvahan of Sialkot, who reigned about 90 A.D., passing with his retinue near the spot where Chamiari now stands, saw a young girl drawing water at a well. Struck by her marvellous beauty, he enquired her name, and found that it was Chamba, and that she was the daughter of the Rajput chief of the district. Salvahan asked the girl in marriage; but her father declined, as the Raja's name was a terror throughout the Punjab to both parents and daughters, as he was accustomed to take a



new wife every day, and maidens were becoming scarce in the land. But the Raja was not to be denied. He swore that if Chamba was only given to him he would not marry again for eight days, and to these reasonable terms the father consented. But by the eighth day Raja Salvahan had grown so deeply enamoured of the beautiful Chamba, that he was content to divorce all his other wives and to keep her only for life; and to glorify his love and render it immortal, he built around the well where he had first seen her drawing water the town of Chamiari, which he called after her name.

Another story asserts that Chamiari was named after the caste of Raja Salvahan's favourite wife, whose name was Luna, the daughter of Raja Pipa of Papnakhia, a Champal Rajput. She was the mother of Risalu, from whom Sialkot was formerly called Risalkot. Luna was remarkable for her beauty, though not for her virtue, as the following story will show. Ichran, another of Raja Salvahan's many wives, became the mother of a beautiful boy, who was named Puran. The astrologers, who had assembled at the palace to draw the horoscope of the new-born infant, declared that the greatest calamities would befall him should he be seen by his father before his twelfth birthday. In those days astrologers were believed; and a high tower was accordingly built in which the boy was carefully guarded till the twelve years had come, as the attendants thought, to an end, when they brought him to his delighted father. But one day had been omitted from the calculation: the twelve years had not expired.

When Luna saw the lovely boy she fell in love with him at once. This was less her fault than that of the stars; and at last unable to control herself, she caught Puran in her arms and told him all her love. He had not been taught the art of love in his solitary tower, and only laughed at Luna's distress and ran away; while she, enraged at the repulse, and her love turning to hatred, tore her hair and clothes, and when the Raja came in told him with weeping eyes that Puran had attempted her virtue. The Raja made no enquiries, but straightway ordered that the boy should be taken into the jungle and there put to death. As the poor little fellow was being carried off by the executioners he begged hard for his life, but for long begged in vain. At length the men promised not to kill him; but they cut off both his hands and threw him down a well, where they



left him to die. But the life of Puran was miraculously preserved, and about two years afterwards the great magician Gorakh Nath came to the place with his twelve thousand disciples. One of these drawing water from the well saw the boy, and having taken him out carried him to the magician, who by enchantments replaced his hands. Gorakh Nath then brought Puran to the palace, and restored to sight Ichran, who had become blind with weeping for the untimely fate of her son. Raja Salvahan, confounded by these prodigies, wished to resign the crown to his son; but Puran would not accept the offer and, renouncing the world, became a disciple of Gorakh Nath, with whom he remained until his death.

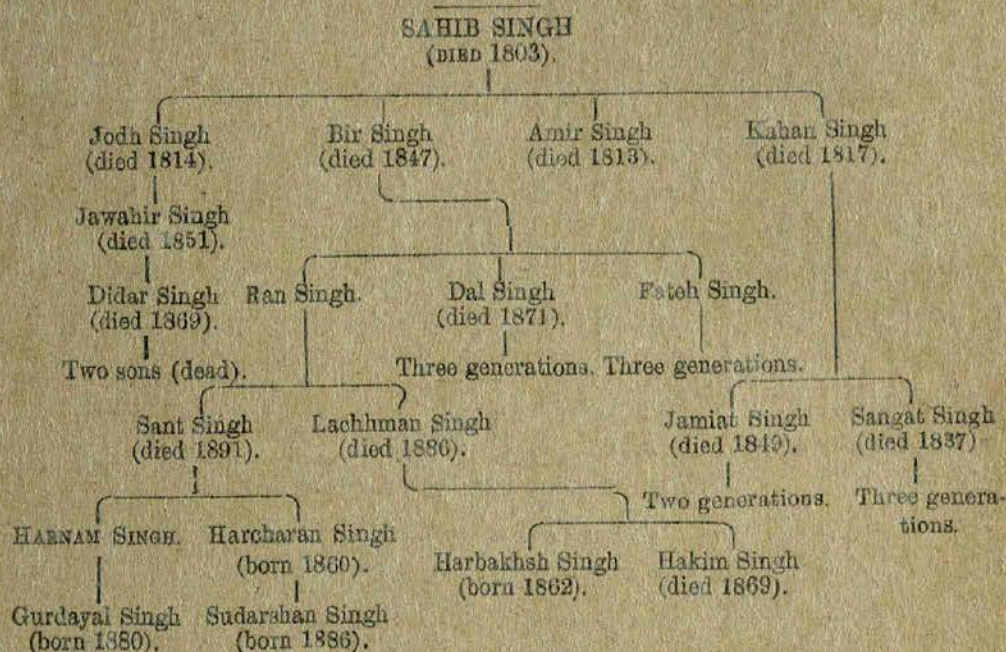
Such are the legends regarding the founding of Chamiani, which is undoubtedly of great antiquity. It was almost entirely destroyed in the great inundation about a thousand years ago when the five rivers of the Punjab united; but was rebuilt under the Emperors. In 1722 it was burnt down by the Sikhs, and was still in ruins when it came into the possession of Nar Singh, who restored and enlarged it.

On the death of the widow of Nar Singh and of Hari Singh his younger son, the little estate left to the family was again reduced, and the whole was resumed by Maharaja Sher Singh on the death of Jai Singh in 1841.

Sardar Gurdit Singh, who was commandant of Maharaja Dalip Singh's bodyguard, held a *jagir* at Dhariwal near Ajnala, worth Rs. 1,200 per annum, one-third of which lapsed at his death in 1878. His two sons, Partab Singh and Nihal Singh, joined the rebels in 1848 and lost their *jagirs*. Khem Kaur, widow of Sardar Jai Singh, received a pension of Rs. 500 per annum. The pension lapsed on her death. Of this branch of the family there are two survivors, namely Sant Singh and Narayan Singh, who have both settled in the Gurdaspur district. The descendants of Gurdit Singh live in Chamiani. Bhagwan Singh is chief *lambardar* and owns about 200 acres of land in Chamiani besides 20 *ghumaos* in Abdal in Gurdaspur district. He and his brother Sham Singh enjoy a *jagir* of Rs. 600 from the village of Dhariwal, tabsil Ajnala, in Amritsar. Bhagwan Singh served for some years in the army.



HARNAM SINGH, VEGLIA.



Sahib Singh joined the Kanhaya confederacy about 1760, and fought under both Jai Singh and Hakikat Singh. He took possession of Taragarh in the Pathankot *pargana* of the Gurdaspur district, and after Sardar Mahan Singh's successful expedition against Jammu, Sahib Singh, who had accompanied it, received a grant of Sayadgarh, worth Rs. 30,000. He founded the village of Wachoya, where he resided till his death in 1803. His estates in Taragarh, Sayadgarh and Wachoya were of the value of Rs. 90,000 and were held intact by his four sons till 1812, when Maharaja Ranjit Singh marched against Taragarh, and after a short siege reduced the fort and confiscated a great portion of the estate. Twelve villages, including Wachoya, worth Rs. 10,000, were still left free of service; but in the ten years succeeding the confiscation, the four brothers all died, and Sardar Jawahir Singh succeeded to the estate with his cousins Jamiat Singh, Sangat Singh and Ran Singh. They fought in many of the Maharaja's campaigns, though their *jagir* was a subsistence one; and they had no obligation to supply a contingent, till Desa Singh Majithia, who was Governor of the Jullundur Doab, told Jawahir Singh that a Sardar should give a contingent for the service of the State if he wished his name to endure, and fixed fifteen horsemen as the suitable number.

The Veglia *jagirs* were not interfered with till 1846, when Raja Lal Singh, who had no love for Sardar Desa Singh, the family patron, took advantage of his departure to Benares to confiscate the whole estate



but a year afterwards the Darbar, with the sanction of the Resident, restored the *jagir* with an increased assessment of Rs. 21,000 and service of thirty sowars. During the disturbances of 1848-49 the Veglia family remained faithful. Didar Singh joined Captain Hodson with his contingent, and did good service at Rangar Nangal, Parma Nand and elsewhere. At the annexation the whole personal estate of the family, amounting to Rs. 8,608, was released; one-third of the share of each descending to the lineal male heirs in perpetuity. Didar Singh became a Risaldar in the Military Police, and took his discharge at the time of the general reductions. He died in 1869.

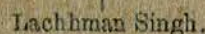
Sant Singh, son of Ran Singh, was sent down to Delhi as Jamadar in the *Risala* raised by Major R. Lawrence in July 1857 to serve with the Guide Cavalry at the siege. A portion of the *Risala* was permanently transferred to the Guide Corps; the remainder formed the nucleus of the Delhi Mounted Police, in which Sant Singh was promoted to be Risaldar. He served with zeal and ability till the reduction of the Military Police, when he received his discharge. He afterwards joined the Provincial Police as an Inspector. In 1866 he was transferred at his own request as a Risaldar to the 4th Bengal Cavalry, in which regiment he was subsequently made Wardi-Major and Risaldar. He served throughout the Afghan War of 1879-80, and acquitted himself well on several occasions before the enemy. He retired in 1882 after thirty-two years' meritorious service on a pension of Rs. 360 per annum. He died in 1891 and his eldest son Harnam Singh is now recognized as representing the family. His other son Harcharan Singh, after serving in the Transport Department and being employed in the Amritsar district office is, now manager of the Domri state in Gorakhpur district. Sudarshan Singh, the latter's son, is at the Aitchison College, Lahore, and is married into the Padhanian family of the Lahore district. Gurdayal Singh, Harnam Singh's son, is married into the Sindhanwalia family of Raja Sansi.

The living members of the family are in receipt of a *jagir* income of about Rs. 1,025, namely, Rs. 125 in Wachoya in the Ajnala tahsil, and Rs. 900 in Taragarh, tahsil Pathankot, Gurdaspur, the original home of the family. They also own about 2,200 *bighas* of land in Targata, Naushahra, Pathan Chak and Gobindsar, Gurdaspur district, and in Vachota, tahsil Ajnala, Amritsar.

Several of the younger members of the family are, or have been, in the Army.



1



The Bhilowal branch of the Sidhu family includes no chief of any importance. Budh Singh made himself master of a good many villages in the Amritsar district, and was killed in one of Ahmad Shah's invasions. His brother Ram Singh succeeded to the estate; but in the early days of Sikh history few chiefs died in their beds, and after some years he also was killed in battle. His son Jai Singh was a mere child at the time of his father's death; and Mahi Singh took possession of the estate, which he considerably increased and managed with much vigour and wisdom till Jai Singh grew up and demanded his rightful inheritance. He was satisfied with obtaining from his cousin the two villages of Bhilowal and Kuchakwal, and died two years after the arrangement, leaving an infant son, Dasaunda Singh; from whom Mahi Singh took back Kuchakwal, which he had only given to Jai Singh with great reluctance. But

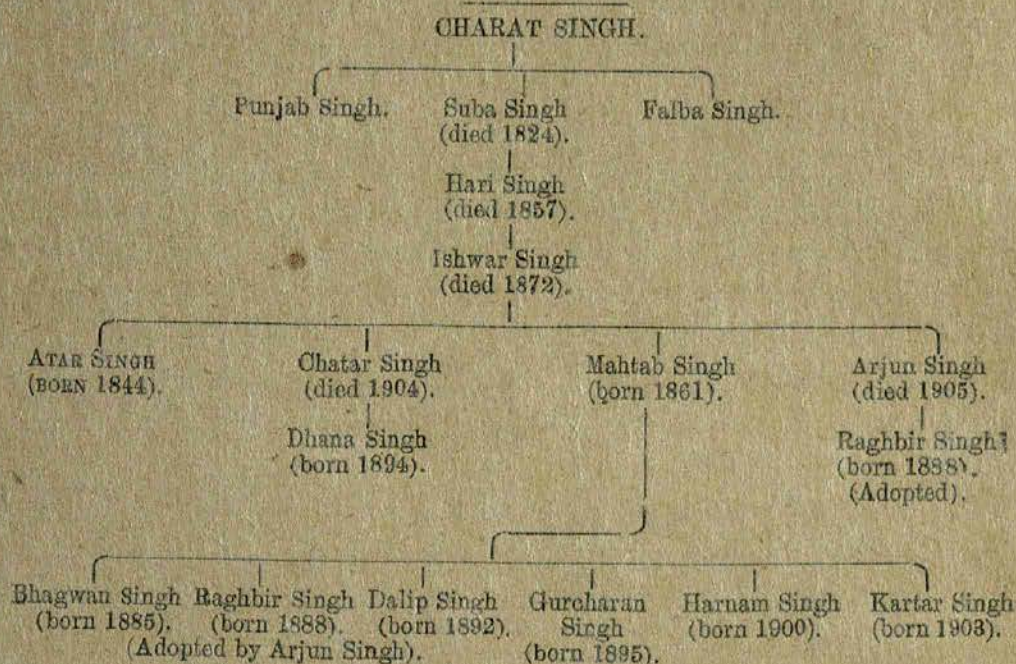


Maharaja Ranjit Singh seized the possession of both with the greatest impartiality, allowing Dasaunda Singh Rs. 3,000 per annum, with which he was to supply five sowars to the Saurian Dera, which was first under Prince Sher Singh, and latterly under Jamadar Khushhal Singh. After his father's death Kishan Singh took his place in this regiment; but the contingent was raised to nine sowars, which he had to furnish till the annexation of the Punjab, when his *jagir* was confiscated as he had joined Raja Sher Singh. He died in 1867. Kishan Singh's son Asa Singh is now the prominent member of this not very prominent family. They hold no *jagirs*, and own about 260 kanals of land.

Asa Singh is married into the family of Sardar Lehna Singh, Majithia. His nephew Balwant Singh is a Deputy Inspector of Police.



ATAR SINGH, BHAKHA.



The ancestors of Atar Singh came into the Punjab from Malwa about the beginning of the seventeenth century, and settled near Chunian in the Lahore district. In 1738 they made a second move to the village of Bhakha in the Amritsar district, from which they derive their family name. Sardar Charat Singh was the son of a sister of Sardar Sawal Singh Aulakhwala, a powerful Bhangi chief. On the death of Sawal Singh, without issue, the estate was divided by the Sikh *gurmatha*, or national council, between Nar Singh Chamiani, the *potrela* of the deceased, and Charat Singh, the sister's son. The share of Nar Singh was the larger; but the *jagirs* of Charat Singh were valuable and extensive, and he held them till his death. His son Suba Singh held *jagirs* worth Rs. 40,000, subject to the service of one hundred and fifty horsemen, from Sardar Hakikat Singh Kanhaya; but Maharaja Ranjit Singh in the year 1802 seized all but Rs. 7,000, subject to the service of five horsemen, who with Suba Singh were employed in the Ghorohara Kalan. The estate was soon afterwards further reduced to Rs. 2,116 at Guralia and Bhakha, Suba Singh having displeased the Maharaja by refusing to give him his daughter in marriage. Suba Singh died in 1824; and the village of Guralia was resumed, and the village of Bhakha, worth Rs. 600, alone left to Hari Singh.

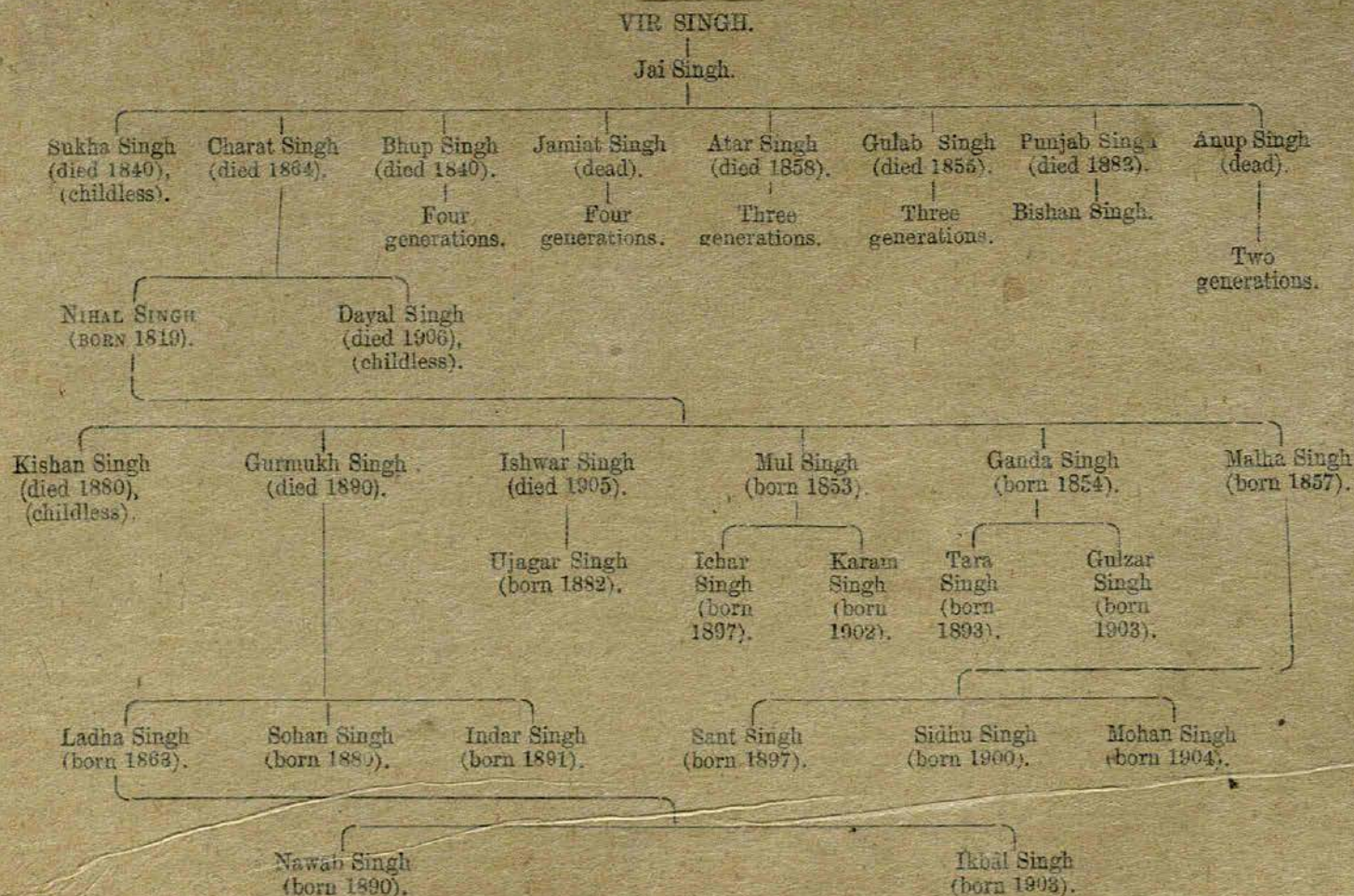


In 1348 Hari Singh, with his contingent, served under the orders of Captain Hodson at Rangar Nangal and elsewhere, and remained faithful throughout the disturbances. On the annexation of the country the *jagir* was upheld to him. He died in 1857; and to his son Ishwar Singh half the village of Bhakha, in the Ajnala *pargana*, was maintained in perpetuity. Ishwar Singh died in 1872. His son Atar Singh, now the head of the family, is a *safedposh* and *lambardar* of two villages, and lives at Bhakha Hari Singh. His brother Mahtab Singh retired as Jamadar from the 16th Bengal Cavalry on a pension, having served with his regiment in Egypt and China. He is now an Assistant for the registration of transport animals. His son Bhagwan Singh has obtained a direct commission as Jamadar in the 23rd Cavalry. The family is connected by marriage with the Sardars of Chhinah and Raja Sansi and Atari.

The three brothers Atar Singh, Mahtab Singh and Arjun Singh share the *jagir*, which is now worth Rs. 600 per annum.



NIHAL SINGH OF KOT SAYAD MAHMUD.



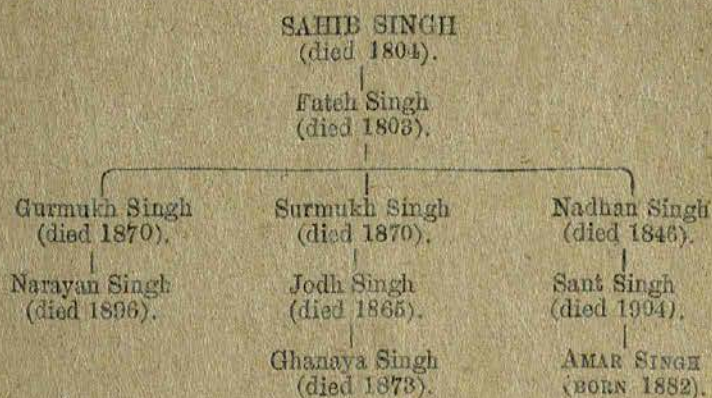


Jai Singh, a Sindhu Jat of Kot Sayad Mahmud, a small village two miles from the city of Amritsar, was a trooper in the employ of Sardar Gulab Singh Bhangi. In the year 1809 Maharaja Ranjit Singh married Jai Singh's daughter Rup Kaur, and this marriage made the fortune of the family; for the *ilaka* Akhnur, worth Rs. 30,000, was assigned to Charat Singh and Bhup Singh, subject to the service of two hundred horsemen. They held it for fifteen years when it was resumed; and Charat Singh obtained instead the *jagir* of Dharuwal, worth Rs. 2,500, free of service, with the commandantship of an irregular regiment. In the year 1831 Charat Singh was severely wounded at the battle of Sayadki Sarai, fought against Sayad Ahmad Shah by Prince Sher Singh. Bhup Singh was killed in the Khybar in 1840, and his estate of Rs. 2,000 was assigned to his sons. In 1848 the family, with but few exceptions, joined the rebels, and the *jagirs* they had enjoyed were confiscated. Charat Singh received a pension of Rs. 100 per annum, and Rani Rup Kaur, who died in 1878, a pension of Rs. 1,980. The family also holds a fifth share in the village of Kot Sayad Mahmud. Rani Rup Kaur adopted Sundar Singh, grandson of her brother Gulab Singh; and he inherited all her movable property, which is said to have been very valuable. Numerous members of the family live in the village of Kot Sayad Mahmud, but none are in affluent circumstances. They have been reduced to the humble position which their ancestors occupied before the marriage of Rup Kaur with the Maharaja Ranjit Singh.

Bishan Singh, son of Punjab Singh, and grandson of Jai Singh, is chief *lambardar* of the village, but Nihal Singh, son of Charat Singh, is regarded as representing the family. The latter's son Mul Singh was a Subadar in the 24th Punjab Infantry and has retired on a pension, with a grant of five squares of land.



AMAR SINGH OF TANG.



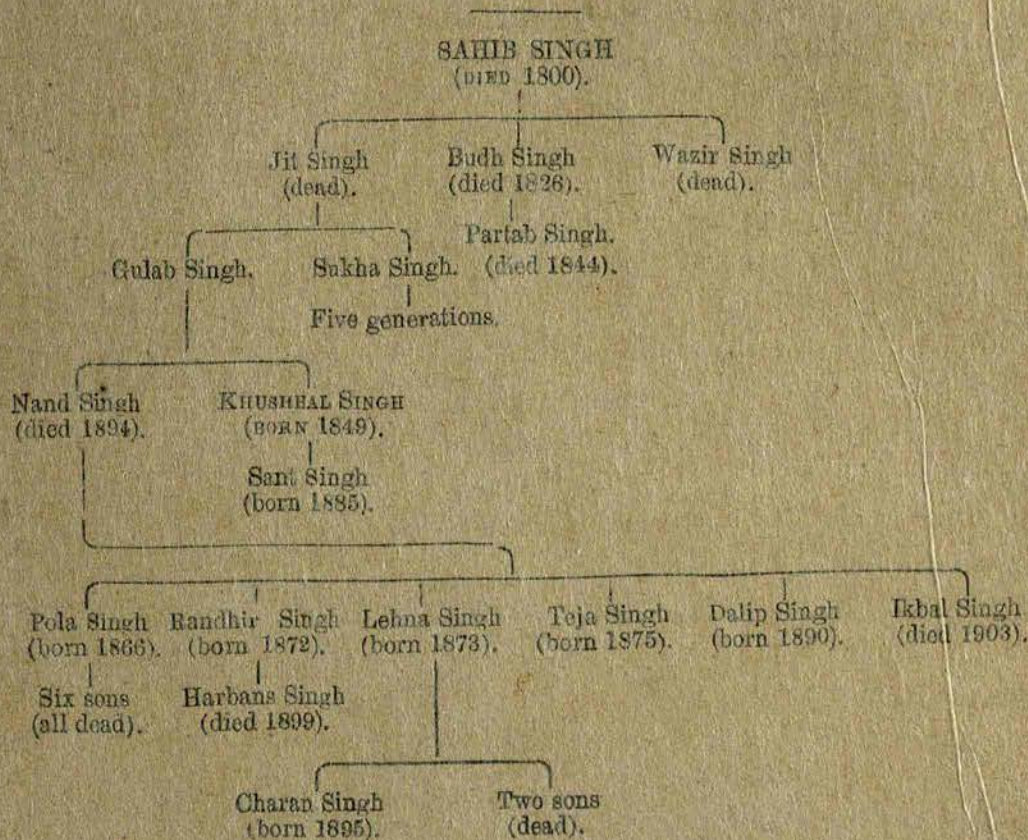
The Sikhs of Tang near Amritsar are of an old family of Tang Rajputs who migrated from Delhi about the beginning of the eighteenth century and founded the village which bears their name. In course of time, from association and intermarriages, they became Jats, and on the Sikhs rising to power joined the Ramgarhia confederacy under Jassa Singh. Sahib Singh received Tang with some adjacent villages from his chief in *jagir*, and died in 1804, his only son Fateh Singh having died the preceding year. Fateh Singh's three sons remained with Jodh Singh, the Ramgarhia Sardar, till in 1816 the Maharaja seized the possessions of the confederacy, and they were glad to enter the service of the conqueror. Gurmukh Singh and Nadhan Singh each received command of one hundred horsemen, and served under Misra Diwan Chand and, on his death, under Sardar Desa Singh Majithia. After the capture of Multan in 1818, at which the brothers were present, they received a grant of their ancestral village of Tang, valued at Rs. 750, in three equal shares, subject to the service of three horsemen, and their salaries were considerably raised. Gurmukh Singh, who was commandant in the Ramgarhia brigade, served at Multan, Mankera, Tirah, Kashmir and Peshawar. He also fought in the Sutlej campaign of 1845-46, when his brother Nadhan Singh was killed. Under the Darbar he was employed in the Manjha as assistant to Gumani Lal and Lal Singh Talwandi, and afterwards was sent to Saurian under Diwan Hakim Rai. He died in 1870.



The *jagirs* held by Surmukh Singh and Jodh Singh lapsed on their death. Sant Singh on his father's death received a pension of Rs. 260 per annum till he attained his majority. He was *lambardar* of Tang, where he owned a considerable amount of land. His son, Amar Singh, is now the only living representative of the family. He is connected by marriage with the Randhawa Sardars.



KHUSHHAL SINGH RANDHAWA, OF KATHU NANGAL.



Chaudhri Dalah, tenth in descent from Randhawa, founded the village of Chavinda in the Amritsar district. His four sons, Gagu, Jabhu, Ram and Lakhan, founded, respectively, the villages of Kathu-Nangal, Sahniwali, Wariam-Nangal and Rupowali. Sahib Singh, who took the *pauhal* and became a Sikh about the year 1770, was the great-grandson of Gagu. He joined Sardar Jai Singh Kanbaya and took possession of about thirty villages in the neighbourhood of Kathu-Nangal, Dharmkot, and Chakowal. Sahib Singh was a gallant man and bore the scars of fourteen wounds. He fought on the side of the Kanhayas in all their quarrels, and fell at last before the fort of Atalgarh in a skirmish with the Ramgarhia troops. His two sons Jit Singh and Budh Singh succeeded to his estate, but the elder of these was killed soon afterwards at Lodha-Mandowala fighting against the Ramgarhias, who had slain his father.

Budh Singh was one of the last of the Kanbaya Sardars to tender his allegiance to Ranjit Singh, by whom he and the sons of Jit Singh were



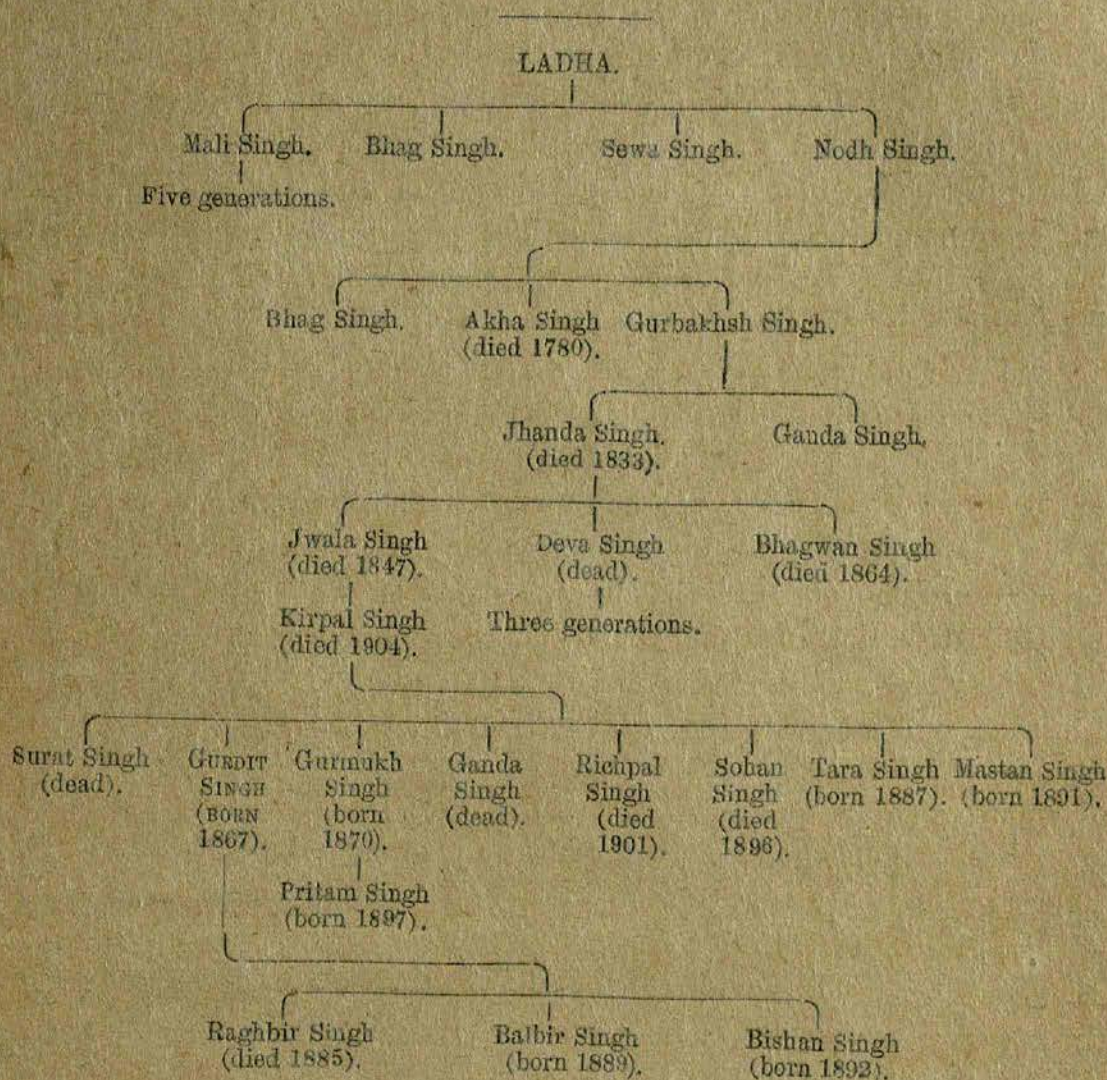
allowed to retain their estates. He served in the army in Hazara, Yusufzai and Kashmir till 1823, when he was obliged to retire through ill-health, and the Maharaja resumed all his villages except Ladha-Manda, worth Rs. 3,000, and a portion of Kathu-Nangal. He died three years later, and his only son, Partab Singh, was placed in the Ghorchara Kalan regiment, and was afterwards transferred as Adjutant to the Povindia regiment, of which he became Commandant in 1840. In 1842 he was made Colonel and received a grant of the *jagir* of Khiali, worth Rs. 1,000. He died without issue in 1844.

None others of the family were in any way distinguished. Nand Singh, who died in 1894, resigned the service and lost his *jagir* in 1848. He resided at Kathu-Nangal, where he possessed a well and half the proprietary rights of the village. Khushhal Singh, his brother, is chief *lambardar* of Kathu-Nangal and is also a *safedposh*. He served for a time in the 18th Bengal Lancers.

The family, owns about 500 acres of land at Kathu-Nangal. Randhir Singh, son of Nand Singh, is married to a daughter of the Sardar of Thatar.



GURDIT SINGH, SINDHU, CHICHAWALA.



Ladha was a *lambardar* of the village of Chicha, which had been founded by an ancestor of that name, a Sindhu Jat, many generations before. Sewa Singh, son of Ladha, about the year 1720, adopted the Sikh faith. It was a time trying to the zeal of new converts. Banda, the blood-thirsty follower of Guru Gobind, had been recently executed at Delhi, and a bitter persecution was raging against the Sikhs, who were put to death wherever they were found. Sewa Singh fled with some companions to the wild region of the upper Ravi, and it was not for many years afterwards that he was able to return to his native village. He turned a robber, like most of the Sikhs at that time, and fell at length in a foray in the direction of Lahore. His brother Nodh Singh joined



the force of Sardar Gujar Singh Bhangi, and managed in the year 1767 to take and hold six villages in the Daska *pargana*, two named Balkawala, Jalal, Sahibran, Gilwala and Kalarwala. After Gujar Singh obtained possession of Gujrat, Nodh Singh received six other villages in the neighbourhood of that city, but was killed shortly afterwards in a skirmish with Sultan Mukarab, an officer of Ahmad Shah Durani. His son Akha Singh succeeded to the estate, but was killed in the year 1780 in attempting to recover some cattle which Ghulam Muhammad, the inveterate foe of the Bhangi *Misal*, had carried off.

Akha Singh left no son, and his brother Bhag Singh, who was a brave soldier, very largely increased the family possessions. He became a Sardar, and held under Gujar Singh a *jagir* worth Rs. 40,000. After his death, without issue, his nephew Jhanda Singh remained in the service of Sahib Singh, son of Gujar Singh, till, Ranjit Singh having taken possession of Amritsar, and the power of the Bhangi *Misal* being on the decline, he joined the young chief and obtained from him a grant of eleven villages in the Amritsar district, though he lost all the old *jagirs* in Gujrat and Sialkot. Jhanda Singh fought in many of Ranjit Singh's campaigns, including those of Kashmir and Kangra. In 1833 he was killed in a private quarrel with one Jit Singh, commandant, who also died of the wounds he received. Jhanda Singh appears to have been the aggressor in this affair; for on Jit Singh's family complaining to the Maharaja all the *jagirs* of Jhanda Singh were resumed, with the exception of Chicha. Jwala Singh, his son, was two years afterwards taken into favour and received back a portion of the *jagir*, subject to the service of ten horsemen. He served for some time on the frontier at Banna and Kohat.

Jwala Singh had married the daughter of Sardar Atar Singh Sindhanwalia, and this alliance brought great trouble upon him, for all his *jagirs* were confiscated by Maharaja Sher Singh when he ascended the throne. When the Sindhanwalias came into favour the *jagirs* were released, but were again resumed by Raja Hira Singh, whose father the Sindhanwalias had assassinated.

Jwala Singh died in 1847. His son Kirpal Singh was then only seven years old, and Maharaja Dalip Singh confirmed to him Hara, worth Rs. 425, a share in Bura Gil, worth Rs. 137, both in tahsil Ajnala, and five wells in Chicha, worth Rs. 930 per annum. This *jagir* was held



AMRITSAR DISTRICT.

545

by Kirpal Singh for life, the wells at Chicha being alone granted in perpetuity. Kirpal Singh died in 1904 and his eldest son, Gurdit Singh, may be regarded as the head of the family. On Kirpal Singh's death his life *jagirs* were resumed and it was decided that the perpetual *jagir* should be equally divided amongst his five sons. Gurdit Singh has, however, appealed against this decision claiming the whole of the five wells at Chicha as eldest son.

Mussammatt Daya Kaur, widow of Sardar Jwala Singh, until her death received a cash pension of Rs. 500 per annum. The family owns about 75 acres of land.

26832

CSL-AS-5426(R)
AS004215
929.2095 CRI-C