



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



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.

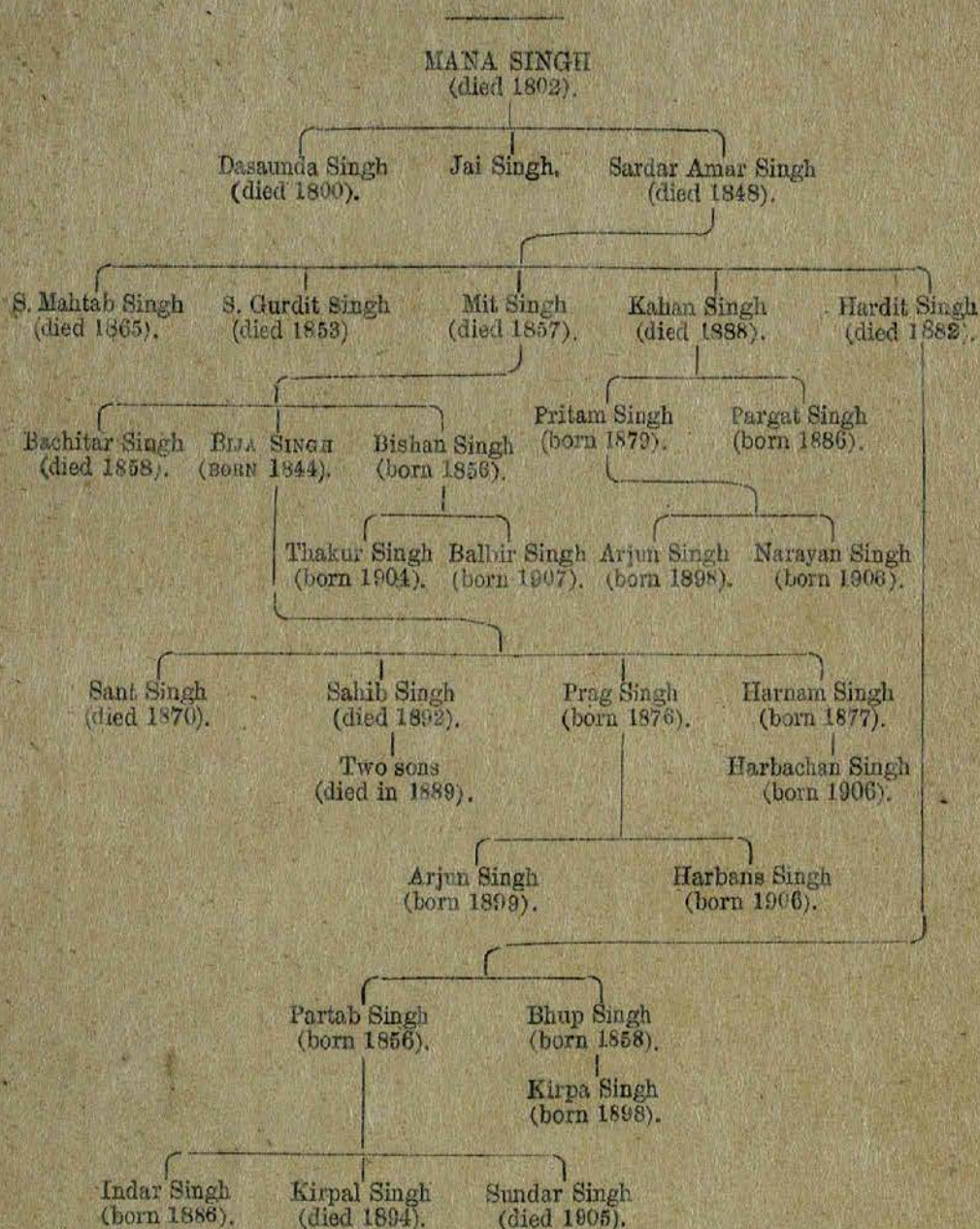
Nihal Singh proceeded to England in 1904 to complete his education. His property is now worth about Rs. 25,000 per annum.

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

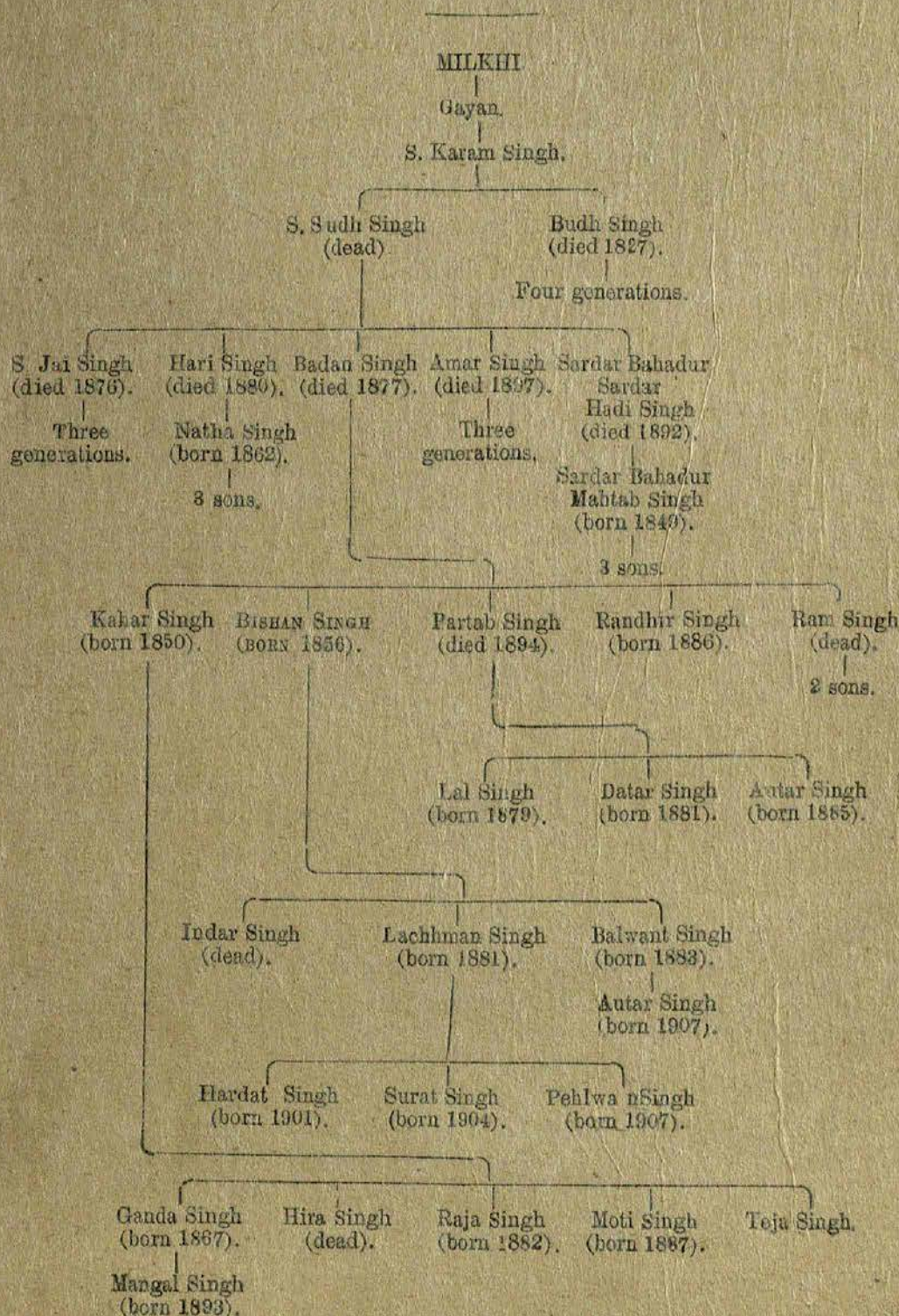


place he was in 1862 created an Honorary Magistrate. He was a great sportsman, and spent a large part of his time at Kapurthala with the Ahluwalia Raja, with whom he was very intimate. His only daughter was married to Sardar Bakhshish Singh Sindhanwalia. She died childless in 1889. Of Sardar Mit Singh's 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 Jamaradar, 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.

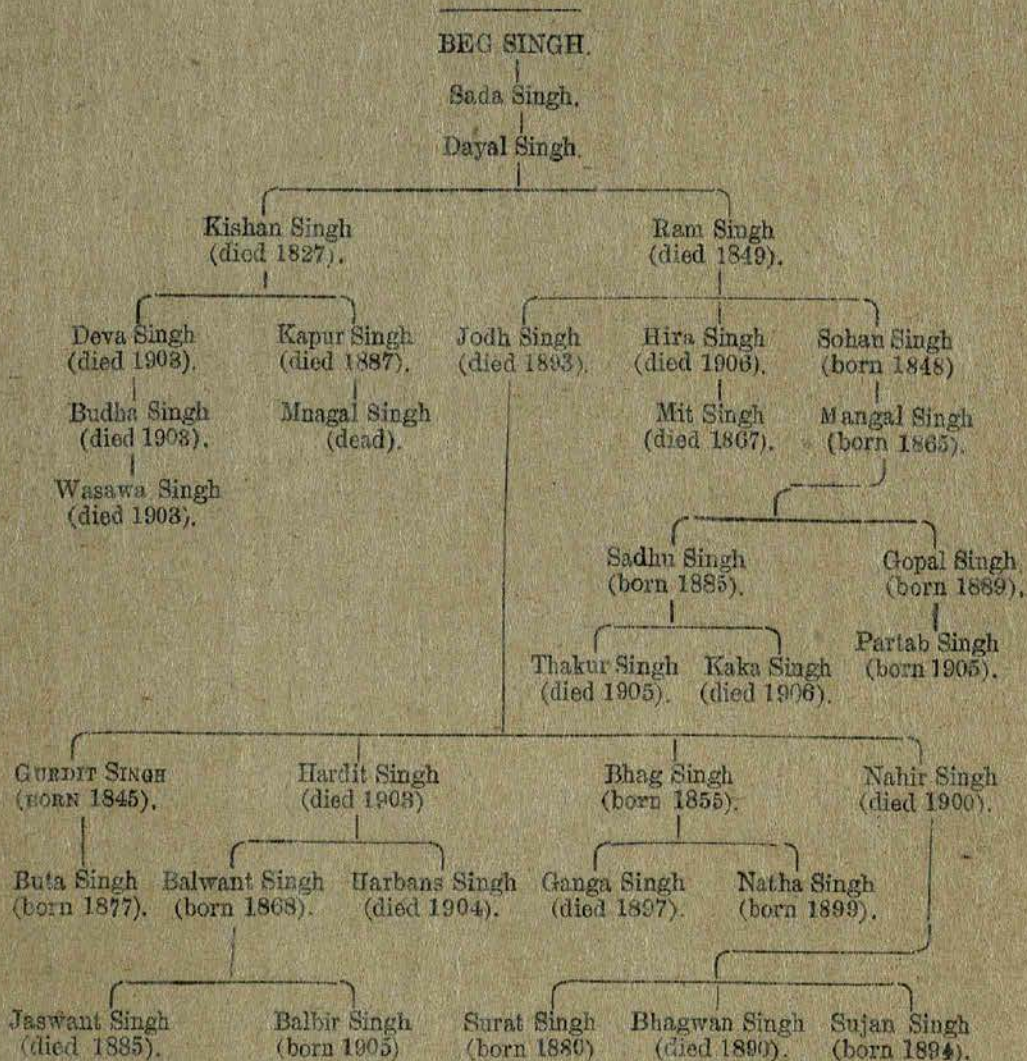


Hardit Singh served as Risaldar-Major, with the title of Sardar Bahadur, in the 9th Bengal Lancers. He became a Provincial Darbari in succession to his deceased brother Sardar Jai Singh in 1876, and was recognised as the head of the family. He died in 1892. His son Mahtab Singh was a Risaldar-Major in 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 cremation. 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

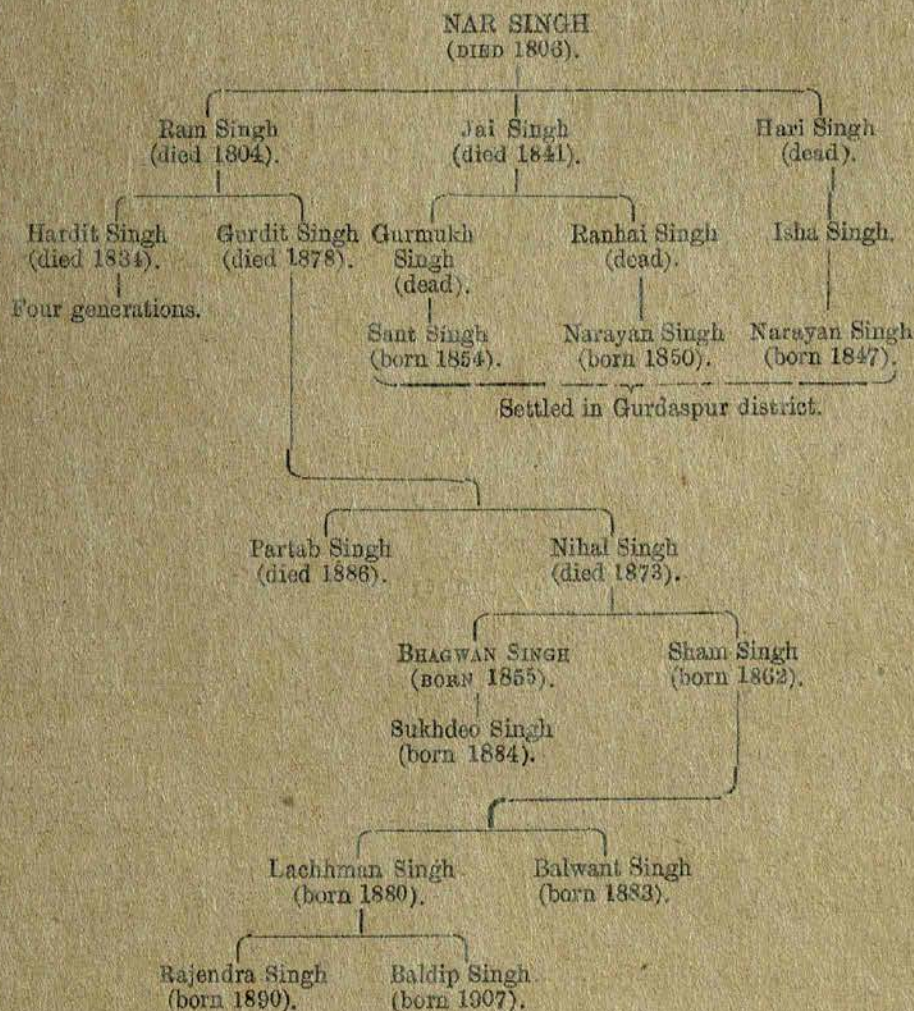


received a grant of waste land in Amritsar district. He, with his son and grandson, died of plague in 1903. Their widows are in possession of their land, which amounts to some 350 acres.

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.

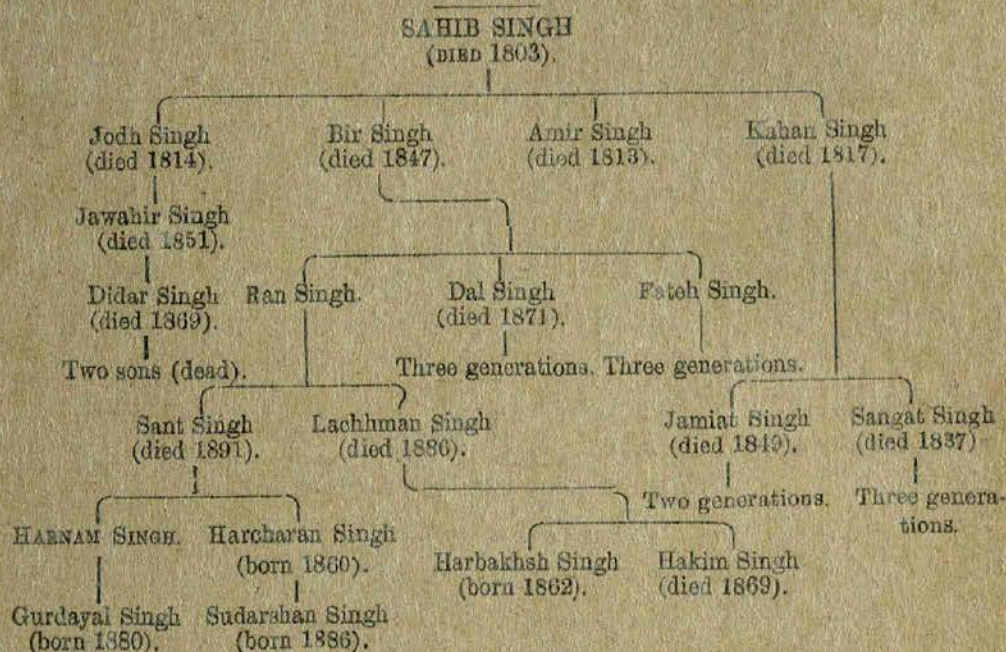
Such are the legends regarding the founding of Chamiani, which is undoubtedly of great antiquity. It was almost entirely destroyed in the great inundation about a thousand years ago when the five rivers of the Punjab united; but was rebuilt under the Emperors. In 1722 it was burnt down by the Sikhs,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

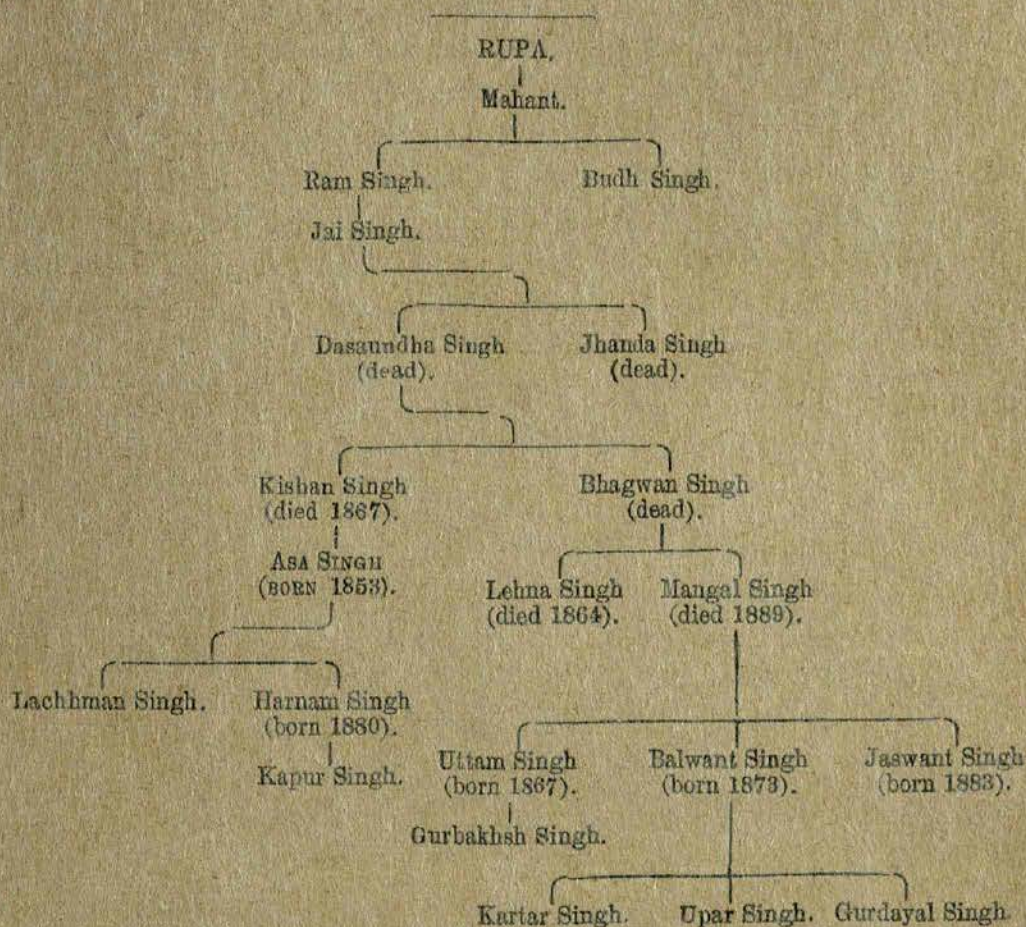
Sant Singh, son of Ran Singh, was sent down to Delhi as Jamadar in the *Risala* raised by Major R. Lawrence in July 1857 to serve with the Guide Cavalry at the siege. A portion of the *Risala* was permanently transferred to the Guide Corps; the remainder formed the nucleus of the Delhi Mounted Police, 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.



ASA SINGH OF BHILOWAL, SIDHU



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

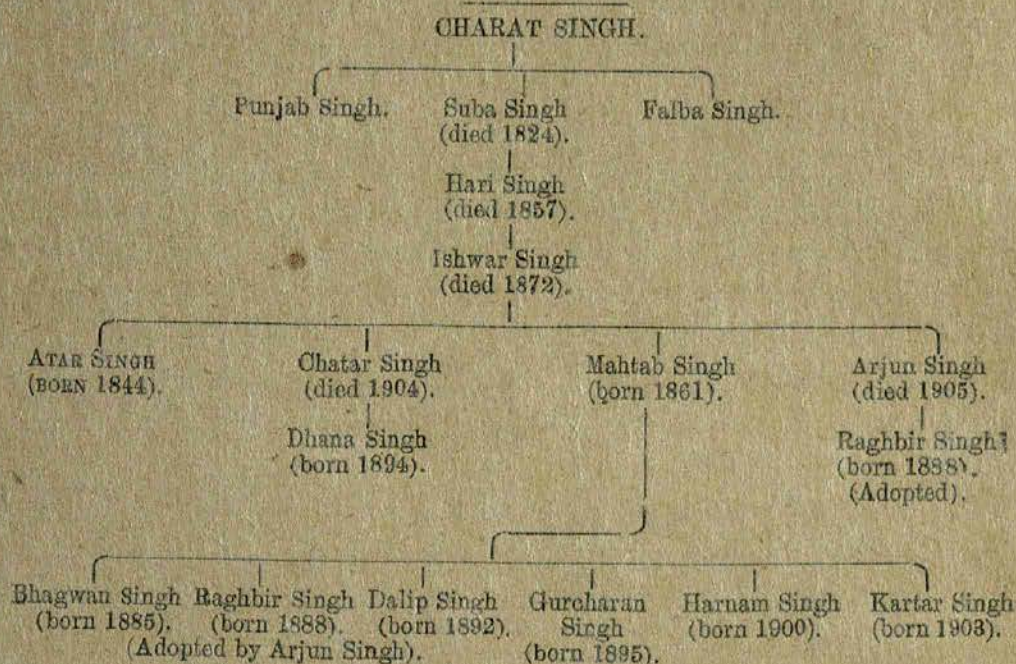


Maharaja Ranjit Singh seized the possession of both with the greatest impartiality, allowing Dasaunda Singh Rs. 3,000 per annum, with which he was to supply five sowars to the Saurian Dera, which was first under Prince Sher Singh, and latterly under Jamadar Khushhal Singh. After his father's death Kishan 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.

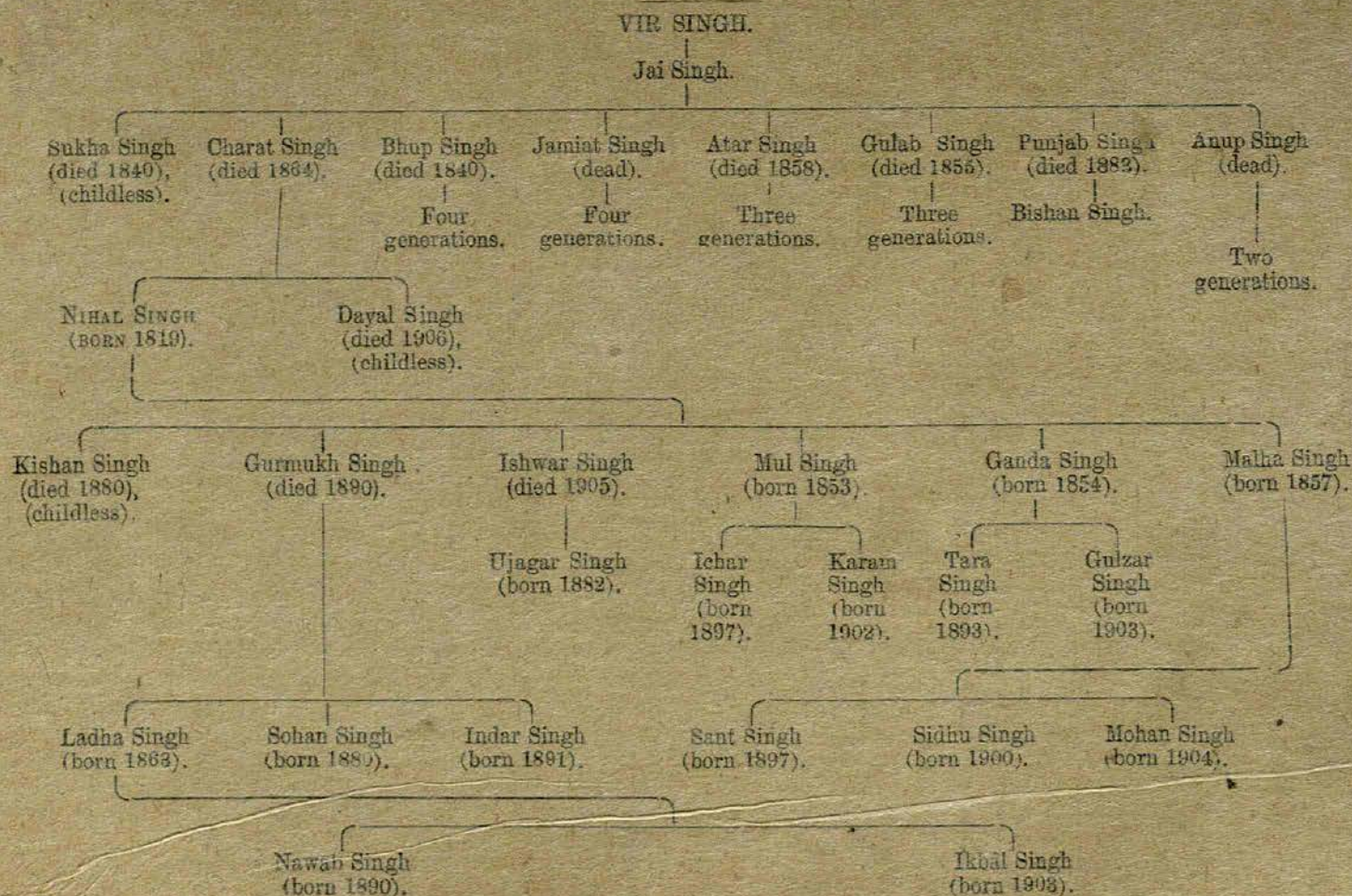


In 1348 Hari Singh, with his contingent, served under the orders of Captain Hodson at Rangar Nangal and elsewhere, and remained faithful throughout the disturbances. On the annexation of the country the *jagir* was upheld to him. He died in 1857; and to his son Ishwar Singh half the village of Bhakha, 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 Dharnawal, 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.
