



entered the service and was made Commandant under his father, with an independent *jagir*. In 1839, when the regular army was first formed into brigades, Gulab Singh was made General, and held his rank and brigade throughout the following reign of Kharak Singh.

In 1837 Gulab Singh was sent to Gujranwala with orders to confiscate the property of Sardar Hari Singh Nalwa, who had been killed at Peshawar, and whose four sons were fighting about the succession. He drove Arjun Singh and Punjab Singh out of their fortified house; threatened to hang the former, and took possession of all the property and estates. Arjun Singh determined on revenge; and when Sher Singh became king, and everyone had license to avenge his real or fancied wrongs, he attacked and burnt Povind, where Gulab Singh resided. The General, fearing for his life, fled to Jammu, where he remained for some time under the protection of Raja Gulab Singh, till the Maharaja, by advice of Dhian Singh, recalled him and placed him in command of the contingent which was to support the British army during the Kabul campaign. He accompanied Colonel Lawrence to Kabul; and his services and knowledge of the country were of considerable value. Raja Hira Singh, whose family had always befriended Gulab Singh, gave him, on the death of Maharaja Sher Singh, new *jagirs* to the value of Rs. 7,625; and Colonel Ala Singh received new allowances, in *jagirs* and cash, to the value of Rs. 2,000.

Gulab Singh took no part in the Sutlej campaign, his troops remaining in Lahore to protect the Maharaja; and in April 1847 he was, at the recommendation of the Resident, appointed Governor of Peshawar and, being at this time the senior General, placed in command of all the troops at that station. The elevation of Gulab Singh to this important post was a great source of gratification to the Khalsa army, for the brave old man was much loved and respected by the troops. He was created a Sardar; and in a Darbar held at Lahore on the 26th November 1847 received the honorary title of Bahadur. Sardar Gulab Singh fulfilled the duties of his new appointment with ability and judgment; and when the Multan rebellion broke out he gave his most cordial assistance to Major G. Lawrence, then in charge at Peshawar, in preserving the peace of the district. For six months, while the insurrectionary movement was spreading more and more widely over the country, the influence of Gulab Singh and his son and deputy, Colonel Ala Singh, kept the excited Sikh soldiery to their allegiance;

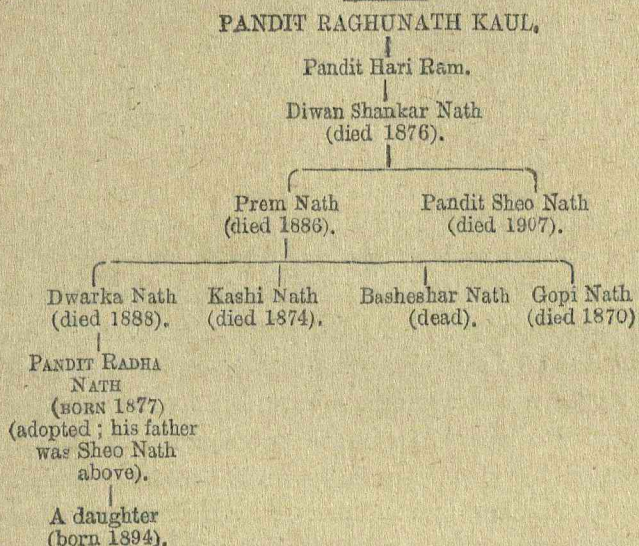


but when Sardar Chatar Singh approached Peshawar the troops could no longer be restrained and broke into open mutiny. Major Lawrence held his post till all was hopelessly lost, and then retired to Kohat. Gulab Singh and Ala Singh would have accompanied him, but the General was too infirm to move quickly; and it was finally decided that he should retire to the fort of Shamirgarh, where he might make terms with the rebels. But this gallant officer refused any terms that would compromise his honour. Both he and his son remained loyal; and the Sikh army, finding that they could not be seduced by bribes or terrified by threats, kept them under restraint till the close of the campaign, when the victory of the British restored them to liberty.

On the annexation of the Punjab, the whole of Sardar Gulab Singh's personal *jagirs*, to the value of Rs. 17,500, were confirmed to him for life, as were those of his two sons, Ala Singh and Lehna Singh, worth Rs. 3,000 and Rs. 1,050 respectively. Gulab Singh and Ala Singh died in 1854 and Lehna Singh in 1856. The descendants of Ala Singh held neither *jagirs* nor pensions.

In 1857 Hari Singh, a servant of the late Sardar, gave information to Government that Rs. 55,000 would be found buried in a house which had belonged to Gulab Singh, and on search being made the money was found and placed in the Treasury. It was claimed by Nand Kaur, the widow of Gulab Singh, and the widows of Lehna Singh, who obtained a decree for the interest of the money in equal shares. This money afterwards passed to Kishan Singh, who squandered it. Kishan Singh was a Viceregal Darbari and died in 1887. His son Suchet Singh served for a short time in the 11th Lancers, and afterwards lived in comparative obscurity in Povind of which village he was *Zaildar* and *Lambardar* until his death. Gurbakhsh Singh, third and only surviving son of Kishan Singh, has succeeded his brother as *Zaildar* and *Lambardar* and may be regarded as the head of the family.

The property left by Sardar Gulab Singh has descended to Gurbakhsh Singh and to Muhammad Said and Ahmad Said, sons of Hardit Singh (*alias* Ghulam Muhi-ud-din). These three are the only surviving male members of the family, which is at present of little local importance.

**PANDIT RADHA NATH.**

The ancestors of Pandit Radha Nath were inhabitants of Kashmir. The first to leave his native country was Lal Chand Kaul who emigrated to Delhi during the reign of the Emperor Shah Jahan and entered the service of Ali Mardan Khan, the accomplished Minister of the Mughal Prince. There he acquired considerable wealth, and after some years returned to Kashmir. His success induced several others of the family to follow his example; and among the emigrants was Raghunath Kaul, who settled at Fyzabad, where a son, Hari Ram, was born to him. He then took service with the Maharaja of Gwalior, and became Mir Munshi of Colonel Louis Burquien, one of the French officers in the Mahratta army. His son Hari Ram worked under him till the overthrow of the Mahratta power threw both father and son on the world. Hari Ram soon after this was invited to Lahore by a relative, Diwan Ganga Ram, who had taken service with Ranjit Singh in 1813, and had risen to offices of trust and profit. He accepted the invitation and, being a ready writer, was placed in charge of the Diwan's office. In 1817 he was attached as Munshi to the person of the Maharaja, and in 1818 held the same office with Kharak Singh, the heir-apparent, whose *jagir* accounts he kept.

Shankar Nath, born at Delhi in 1805, was brought to Lahore by his father in 1820 and placed in Prince Kharak Singh's Treasury office. He was afterwards transferred to the Central Record office, in which he

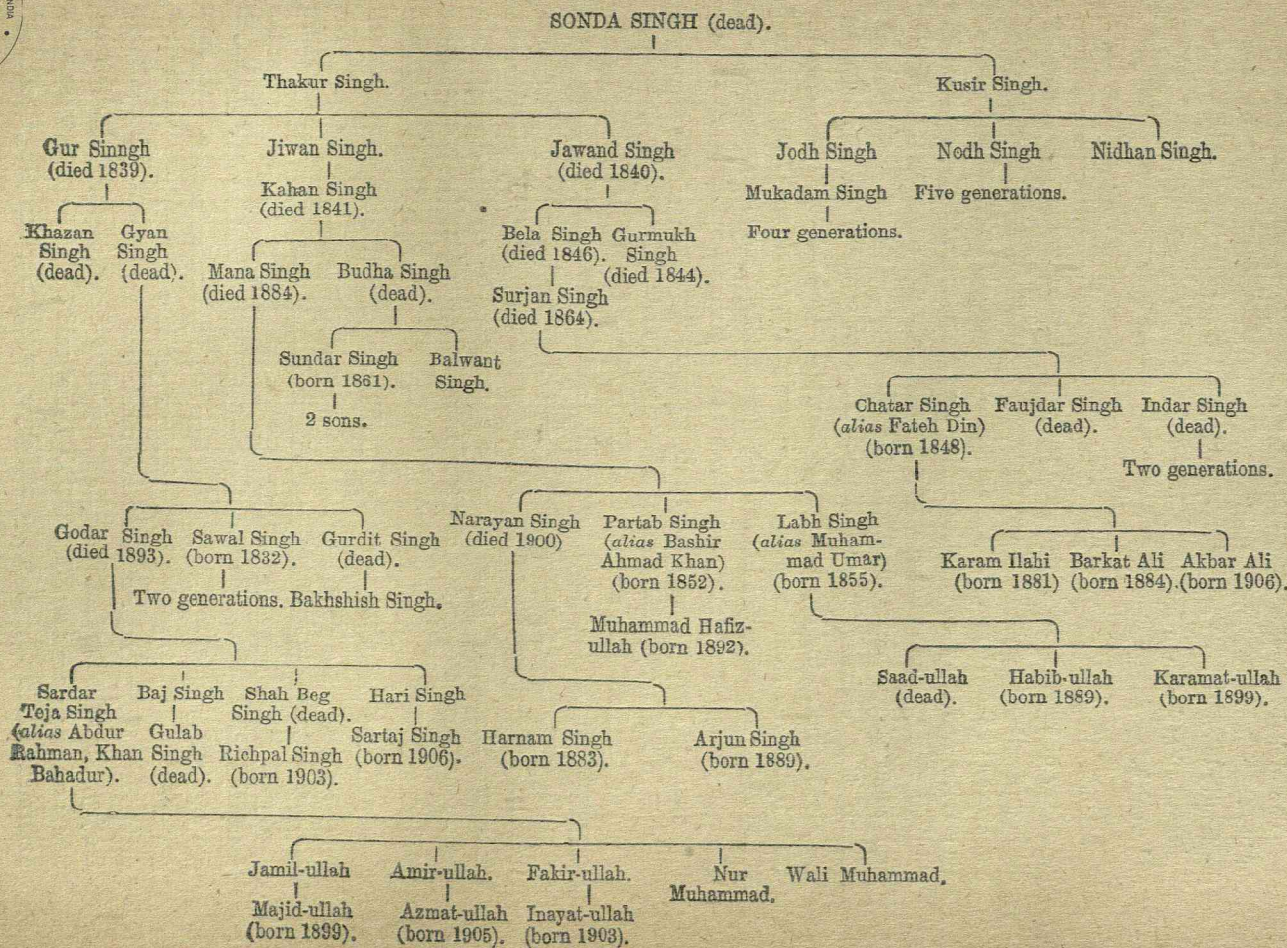
remained till the annexation of the Punjab. His connection with Raja Dina Nath, whose sister he had married, gave Pandit Shankar Nath much influence ; and he was besides known for ability and unimpeachable honesty. During the time of the Residency, from 1846 to 1849, Shankar Nath was largely and confidentially employed by British officers, Messrs. Bowring, Cocks, Wedderburn and Major Macgregor ; and all have borne witness to the value of his services and to his high character. Being chief munshi of Raja Dina Nath's office, a large amount of revenue work was made over to him, and he himself disposed of upwards of eight thousand cases. Till 1849 Shankar Nath held *jagirs* to the value of Rs. 6,500, besides cash allowances, Rs. 1,360 and Rs. 2,412, for his establishment. The *jagirs* situated in Shekhupura and Gujrat were resumed, and a pension of Rs. 2,620 was assigned to him for life. In 1862 Shankar Nath was appointed Honorary Magistrate of Lahore. In this office he gave great satisfaction by his impartiality and activity. He possessed great knowledge of Hindu Law, and in intricate cases of custom, inheritance and religion his opinion was sought with confidence by the English Magistrates of Lahore. In January 1865 he was created a Diwan by the Supreme Government. He was for many years a Member of the Municipal Committee. He died in 1876, regretted by all classes, and was succeeded as head of the family by his son Prem Nath, *nazir* of the Deputy Commissioner's Court, Lahore. In recognition of the Diwan's loyal and faithful services, a grant was made in 1880 to Prem Nath of one thousand acres in Rakh Bhail Bhuchoke in the Chunian tahsil of the Lahore district, upon favourable rates for a term of twenty years. Prem Nath here founded the village of Prem Nagar. It lies within four miles of Raiwind junction on the North-Western Railway. Prem Nath retired on pension in 1884 after thirty years' service, and died in 1886. He was a Provincial Darbari. His eldest son Dwarka Nath was an Extra Assistant Commissioner, but survived his father only two years. After his death Pandit Sheo Nath, second son of Diwan Shankar Nath, was regarded as the head of the family. He was for thirty-five years in the service of the Maharaja of Jammu, and died in 1907 while acting as Sub-Registrar of Jammu. The State has granted a pension to his widow in recognition of his good services.

Pandit Radha Nath, son of Sheo Nath and adopted son of Dwarka Nath, is the only surviving male member of the family. He acquired proprietary rights in the village of Prem Nagar in 1905 by a payment to Government of Rs. 50,000. He has no seat in Darbar.



THE MOKAL FAMILY.

CSL



LAHORE DISTRICT.



The Mokal family, of the Sindhū Jat caste, rose to considerable power during the reign of Maharaja Ranjit Singh. Even among the Sikh nobility the family is considered a new one, and it was more by their strength and prowess in battle than by their cleverness that its members gained lands and wealth.

Sonda Singh was a Jat villager, father of seven sons, of whom only the genealogy of two is here given, as the descendants of these alone became distinguished. His only daughter, Kauran, he married to Sardar Lal Singh, a *Jagirdar* in the vicinity of Pakpattan, who took his brothers-in-law into his service, and they rode behind him in all his marauding expeditions till their sister, jealous for the influence of her husband, induced him to turn them adrift. Jawand Singh with his cousins came to Lahore and entered the service of Ranjit Singh. For some time they remained unnoticed; but at the bloody battle of Baisah, fought near Attock in July 1813 by Diwan Mohkam Chand against the Afghan Wazir, the cousins, six of whom were engaged in the fight, were so conspicuous for bravery and strength that the Maharaja gave them the *jagir* of Rangilpur, worth Rs. 2,500, and to Jawand Singh, who had specially distinguished himself, five villages in the Gujrat district, valued at Rs. 30,000, subject to the service of one hundred and fifty sowars; and his brothers were placed under his command. In 1818 he served at Multan, and the next year in Kashmir, where he was severely wounded in the side by a spear. For this wound he received an assignment of Rs. 2,500 per annum out of the Kashmir revenue. The family *jagir* at one time reached Rs. 1,35,000, including Rs. 2,000 from the estate of their inhospitable connection Sardar Lal Singh.

After the death of Maharaja Ranjit Singh in 1839, and of Jawand Singh in 1840, the *jagirs* of the Mokal family remained intact; those which had been specially assigned to Jawand Singh descending to his two sons, Bela Singh and Gurmukh Singh, for the estate had been divided in 1836. Their contingent of two hundred and fifty horsemen was however raised to three hundred, and the brothers were placed under the command of Prince Nao Nihal Singh. They did not get on well together; the elder suspecting the younger of a desire to obtain not only the larger portion of the *jagir*, but the Sardarship itself. Raja Hira Singh was Minister at the time, and on a *nazrana* of Rs. 20,000 being paid by Sardar Bela Singh he confirmed him in the chiefship and *jagir*, which Gurmukh Singh took so



much to heart that he died of vexation shortly afterwards, in 1844. When the first Punjab War broke out, Sardars Bela Singh and Surjan Singh with two hundred horsemen joined the army, and formed part of the detachment which advanced to Mudki and Ferozeshah. They were both present at Sobraon; and Bela Singh, severely wounded in the battle, was drowned in the Sutlej in the vain attempt to ford the river after the bridge of boats had been broken down. For several days his servants searched for his body, but it was never found. When Raja Lal Singh was confirmed as Minister at Lahore, nearly half of Sardar Bela Singh's *jagirs* were resumed; but there was still left to Surjan Singh estates worth Rs. 63,800, of which Rs. 49,800 were subject to the service of one hundred and sixty-three sowars. Surjan Singh enjoyed this estate up to 1849, when, having with his cousin Khazan Singh joined the national party, it was resumed, with the exception of Rangilpur, worth Rs. 1,000, which had been assigned on the death of Sardar Gurmukh Singh as a provision for his widow and daughter. This was upheld to the widow Ind Kaur. Khazan Singh received a pension of Rs. 450, and Mukadam Singh one of Rs. 72. Sardar Surjan Singh's pension of Rs. 1,200 lapsed at his death in March 1864. His son Chatar Singh, who succeeded him as chief *lambardar*, embraced the Muhammadan faith in 1879 and changed his name to that of Fateh Din. He has three sons by a Muhammadan wife.

In 1858 Mana Singh was made a Risaldar in the Banda Military Police, in which he remained till 1861. In September 1859 he distinguished himself by the manner in which he led his troop against very superior numbers of the enemy, and on this occasion he was wounded in the head, and his horse was wounded under him; but he mounted a fresh horse, and was again foremost in the fight and the pursuit. In 1861, when he was discharged on the reduction of the Police force, he was made *Zaildar* or Honorary Police Magistrate of twenty-eight villages in the neighbourhood of Mokai; and in 1862 he received a grant of 720 acres of waste land in Rakh Mudki near Chunian. Mana Singh died in 1884 and his son Narayan Singh succeeded him as *Zaildar* and *lambardar*, dying in 1900. His other two sons, Partab Singh and Labh Singh, became Muhammadans. The former, who owns about 2,200 acres of land in the Lahore and Hissar districts as well as a grant of 560 acres on the Chenab Canal, is now known as Bashir Ahmad Khan. He was in the Punjab Irrigation Department, and retired as a Deputy Collector after thirty years' service on a pension of Rs. 200 per mensem. He is the author of several

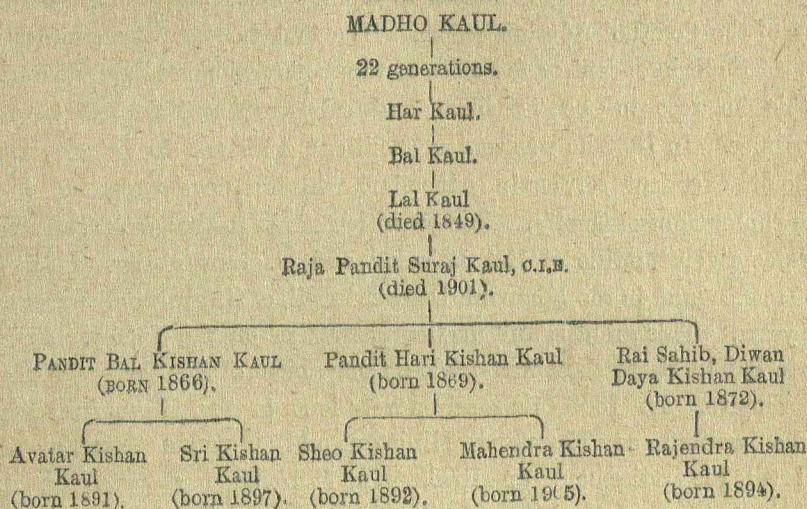


Urdu books on agriculture and of a history of the Mokal family. Labh Singh is now known as Muhammad Umar and is a *Zaildar*. Godar Singh was Risaldar in Hodson's Horse, in which regiment he served with credit for over two years. He was discharged when his troop was disbanded in March 1860. When the Chinese War broke out, Godar Singh volunteered his services, but there was no vacancy in Fane's Horse at the time, and they were declined. He received a grant of fifty acres of land in Rakh Mudki at the same time as his cousin Mana Singh. He was *Zaildar* of Thata Jaloki, Chunian, Lahore. On Mana Singh's death he was granted his seat in Divisional Darbars and being the head of the senior branch was looked on as the head of the family. He died in 1893. His son Teja Singh also changed his religion and is now called Abdur Rahman. He is a Deputy Collector in the Punjab Irrigation Department, in which he has served for over thirty years. In 1907 he was granted the title of Khan Bahadur in recognition of his long and approved service and general integrity. He owns 268 acres of land in Mokal and other villages, and as the representative of the elder branch may now be regarded as head of the family. His eldest son, Jamil-ullah, is in the Irrigation Department. His third son, Fakir-ullah, B.A., is a Naib-tahsildar. Mukadam Singh was also a Risaldar, and on his retirement received a grant of 100 acres of land and was appointed a *Zaildar* of Sultanki in the Lahore district. Both his sons are dead. One of them, Kishan Singh, was a daffadar in the 11th Bengal Lancers.

Budha Singh, the brother of Mana Singh, was a daffadar in the Banda Police, which he left in 1861 when the force was reduced. His son Sundar Singh in addition to other landed property, holds a grant of 11 squares of land on the Chenab Colony. The family reside at Mokal in the Lahore district. They hold half the village in proprietary right, besides three shares in Kila Jaswant Singh, and considerable land in Sultanki. The Sikh and Muhammadan members of the family are not on good terms.



PANDIT BAL KISHAN KAUL.*



Pandit Bal Kishan Kaul is the head of a family which claims to be one of the oldest Brahman families of Kashmir. His grandfather, Pandit Lal Kaul, was confirmed by Maharaja Ranjit Singh in the enjoyment of a *jagir* of the annual value of Rs. 17,000, situated in Kashmir, which had been conferred on his ancestors by the Mughal Emperors and continued to them by the Kabul Amirs. Pandit Lal Kaul married the only daughter and heiress of Pandit Prakash Kakru, who was joint Governor of Kashmir during the rule of the Kabul dynasty. He sent his son-in-law, according to the custom of the time, to Kabul as surety for his own good behaviour, and there Pandit Lal Kaul acted as one of the Amir's ministers. After Prakash Kakru's death, Lal Kaul came to Lahore and entered Ranjit Singh's service. He accompanied Misra Diwan Chand's expedition to Kashmir in 1819 when that country was reduced by the Maharaja's forces. After this he was for three years employed as Governor of Multan, and was subsequently appointed to the command of the cavalry regiment known as the Pindiwala Dera, which he led in many engagements, the last being the battle of Sobraon. On the annexation of the Punjab in 1848 he was granted a life-pension, which for a time he enjoyed together with the *jagir* in Kashmir. The latter was, however, resumed with other *jagirs* by Maharaja Gulab Singh in 1849, the year of Pandit Lal Kaul's death.

* Not included in former editions.



Pandit Suraj Kaul was only sixteen years old when his father died, but Sir John Lawrence interested himself in the boy and found him a place in the office of the Board of Administration. His first important appointment was that of Superintendent of the office of the Commissioner of Rawalpindi. From this he rose to be Tahsildar and subsequently Extra Assistant Commissioner. In 1883 he was sent as Political Assistant to Baluchistan, where he did excellent service in connection with the development of the city and cantonment of Quetta. In recognition of his good work in Baluchistan he was given the title of Rai Bahadur and a grant of five hundred acres of waste land in the Khangah Dogran tahsil of Gujranwala, rent-free for ten years. This grant is still in the possession of the family. At a later date Pandit Suraj Kaul was made a Companion of the Order of the Indian Empire. In 1888 his services were lent to the Kashmir State, where he worked as Financial Minister and Revenue Member of Council till his retirement in 1896. In 1897 he was appointed an additional member of the Governor-General's Legislative Council, and two years later was nominated to the Provincial Legislative Council. In 1901 he was granted the title of Raja as a personal distinction. He died in December of the same year at the age of sixty-eight.

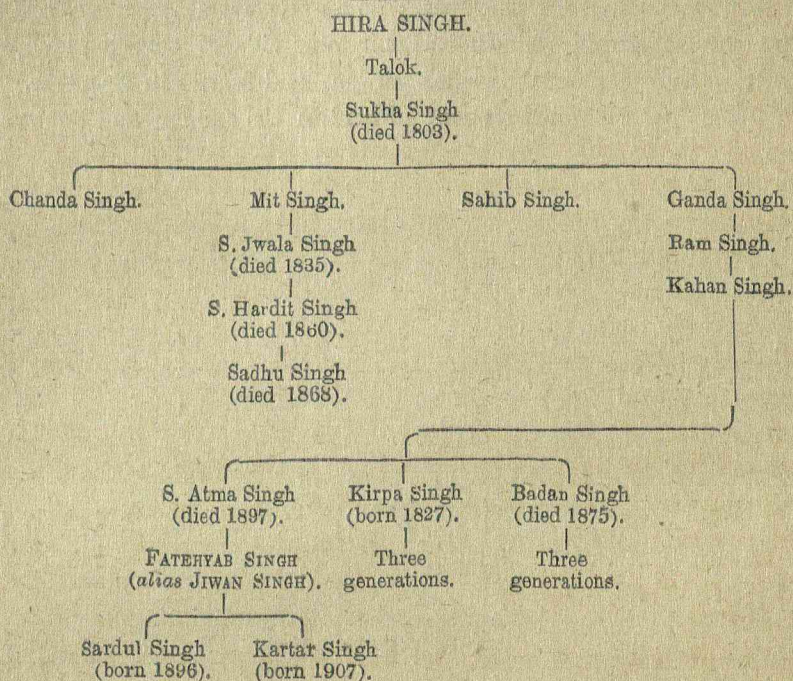
Raja Suraj Kaul left three sons, all of whom have risen to distinction. The eldest, Pandit Bal Kishan Kaul, is an Assistant Surgeon of the first grade and Lecturer on Medicine, Materia Medica and Hygiene at the Lahore Medical College. The second son, Pandit Hari Kishan Kaul, M.A., was appointed an Extra Assistant Commissioner on probation in 1890 and confirmed in 1892. He was Settlement Officer of Muzaffargarh from 1898 to 1903, and of Mianwali from 1903 to 1908. He has lately been promoted to the rank of Deputy Commissioner. Diwan Daya Kishan Kaul, the youngest son, is Private Secretary to the Maharaja of Kashmir, and has been granted the title of Diwan by the Maharaja and that of Rai Sahib by the Government of India.

The family is wealthy and much respected. It owns considerable landed property in addition to the grant of five hundred acres in Khangah Dogran, which now forms part of the Chenab Colony. Among other items may be mentioned:—A village measuring eleven hundred acres in Gujranwala, another measuring three hundred acres in Shahpur, and six hundred



acres in a third village in Lyallpur; house-property and land in Lahore valued at about two lakhs of rupees; house-property at Amritsar, Lyallpur, Sangla and Sillanwali; and in Kashmir nine villages covering an area of about two thousand acres, besides gardens and houses in Srinagar. The family also owns a small amount of land in the Jammu and Bahawalpur States

FATEHYAB SINGH, *alias* JIWAN SINGH, PADHANIA



One of the principal Jat families of the Manjha is the Sindhu, and to this family Jiwan Singh belongs. Its founder, Sindhu, appears to have been of Rajput origin, but during the thirteenth century emigrated from Ghazni in Afghanistan to the Manjha, where he settled with his family. How his ancestors became first resident in Afghanistan is uncertain; but in all probability they were among the numerous Hindu captives that Sultan Mahmud carried away with him after his Indian expeditions, a large colony of whom he planted in his new and beautiful capital of Ghazni. Some of the Sindhu Jats assert that it was Ghazni in Southern India from which their ancestor emigrated; but this story is improbable and is entirely unsupported by proof.

Changa, the thirteenth in descent from Sindhu, was an influential Chaudhri, and founded, some fifteen miles south-east of Lahore, the village of Padhana where the family still resides. He was the chief of the thirty Jat Chaudhris and headmen who went on a mission to the Emperor Akbar to arrange the marriage of that monarch with a daughter of Mir Mita

Dhariwal, a *Zamindar* of Dowla Kangra, near Wadni, in the Ferozepore district. The Emperor first saw the girl, who was very beautiful, at her village well. She had a pitcher of water on her head, yet contrived to place her foot upon the rope of a refractory and runaway heifer and hold it captive till its owner came up. Akbar was so delighted with this feat of strength and skill that he wished to marry her; but her father declined the honour, without the consent of his caste. He assembled a committee of seventy-one *lambardars* and *Chaudhris*, thirty-five Jats and thirty-six Rajputs, to decide the question. The Rajputs considered the alliance disgraceful; but the Jats, with Changa at their head, approved of it, and the marriage took place accordingly. Akbar rewarded the thirty-five with lands and honours; and these were the ancestors of all the Jat families in the Punjab of any consideration; so much so, that the chief Jat families are called *painti*, thirty-five, and the chief Rajput families *chati*, thirty-six, at the present day. Changa, who from his antecedents might be expected to have been among the *chati*, was, on the contrary, found in the ranks of the Jats. His family had been so long Jat cultivators that their Rajput prejudices had died away. He was a man of considerable influence, and his son succeeded to his power; but his grandson, Dibawas, during the reign of Jahangir, was degraded from the office of *Chaudhri* for murder.

When the Sikhs rose to power, Sukha Singh, who was then the representative of the family, with his two sons, Mit Singh and Sahib Singh, joined the popular faith. Mit Singh entered the service of Sardar Mahan Singh Sukarchakia, and Sahib Singh that of Sardar Gujar Singh of Lahore. From the Sukarchakia leader Mit Singh received an estate worth Rs. 12,000 and on Mahan Singh's death he followed the fortunes of the young Ranjit Singh, and was with him at the capture of Lahore in 1799. He later accompanied the Kasur expedition and rose high in favour with his master, who gave him many valuable estates. In 1814 he was in command of the rear-guard of the army during its retreat from Kashmir. The tribes came down in force, and handled Mit Singh's division very severely and wounded the Sardar himself mortally. Ranjit Singh was much grieved at his loss, and swore to befriend his son Jwala Singh, to whom, accordingly, all his father's possessions were confirmed; and in addition he received a new *jagir* worth Rs. 1,25,000 at Haripur Goler in Kangra.

Sardar Jwala Singh was a brave and an able man. He was present at the capture of Multan in 1818, and distinguished himself at Mankera, Teri, Kot Kapura and Kashmir ; and on one occasion, being in charge of the Attock fort, he gallantly held out, with a few hundred horsemen, against the whole Afghan army. In 1829 he was struck by paralysis ; and though he lived till 1835 he was no longer able to serve in the field or to attend at Darbar. His illness is said to have been brought on in the following manner. The troops occupying the Kangra fort had mutinied ; and the Maharaja sent Jwala Singh, who was very popular with the army, to induce them to return to their duty. The fort was too strong to reduce, and Jwala Singh was compelled to confine himself to arguments ; and, at length, on solemn promises of full pardon, persuaded the mutineers to submit. But the Maharaja cared nothing for the pledged word of Jwala Singh. He put the ringleaders to death, and fined and degraded the other mutineers. This conduct so mortified Jwala Singh, who considered his honour lost, that it brought on the illness from which he never recovered.

There is no one of the Sikh Sardars whose name is more renowned for generosity and munificence than Jwala Singh. The young daughter of his cousin, Kahan Singh, who had died in very embarrassed circumstances, Jwala Singh adopted as his own. He gave her a large dowry, and is said to have spent upwards of a lakh of rupees upon her marriage. At the commencement of his last illness he distributed an equally large sum of money among the fakirs and Brahmans. Nor was he less liberal to strangers than to his own family, as the following story will show. When Prince Sher Singh had failed so signally in his administration of Kashmir, the Maharaja looked about for victims upon whom to avenge the failure. Among others, the principal agent of the Prince, Diwan Baisakha Singh Chamyariwala, was ordered to Lahore. His accounts were declared fraudulent, and he was fined Rs. 1,25,000 without enquiry into the proofs against him. There is no doubt the fine was deserved, for at that time Kashmir was considered by the Sikh officials as a sheep-fold under the protection of the wolves. But the Diwan proclaimed that he was unable to pay the fine. The Maharaja ordered him to be flogged until he should discover where his wealth was concealed. The unhappy wretch was dragged out of the presence, past the *Deorhi* or ante-chamber, where were seated Raja Dhian Singh, Jwala Singh and many other chiefs. When



Diwan Baisakha Singh saw them, he implored their intercession with the Maharaja, and threw himself before them, crying out "I am your cow. Save me!" But no one took the slightest notice of him, except Sardar Jwala Singh. He listened to the whole story, and then had the courage to go before the Maharaja and beg for the remission of the punishment, offering himself to pay the whole fine. Ranjit Singh consented and, being utterly without the power of appreciating a noble and magnanimous action, recovered the fine to the last rupee from Jwala Singh, whom, as might have been supposed, the Diwan forgot ever to pay. As another instance of his generosity, it may be mentioned that in his ancestral village of Padhana he never took rent or revenue from any of his own, the Sindhu tribe.

On the death of Jwala Singh, the Maharaja resumed the larger portion of his *jagir*, for Hardit Singh, the Sardar's only son, was of weak intellect; and although he used to attend at Court, yet he was unable to hold any independent command. He, however, retained estates worth Rs. 27,425, subject to the service of one hundred horsemen. In 1848 this contingent was in Hazara with Sardar Chatar Singh Atariwala when he rebelled. Most of the men remained true to Government, and on the annexation of the Punjab, Hardit Singh and his mother were allowed to retain an estate worth Rs. 9,000 per annum.

In 1860 Hardit Singh died, leaving one son, Sadhu Singh, who died at the age of fifteen years while still a student in the Lahore College. On Sadhu Singh's death Sardar Atma Singh, son of Kahan Singh, was recognised as head of the family. He lived at Padhana and was an Honorary Magistrate with jurisdiction in fifty-two villages. He was created a Sardar and given a *Sanad* under the hand of the Viceroy. The *jagir* allowances in the family ceased on Hardit Singh's death; but the Sardar had proprietary rights in four villages and was in flourishing circumstances. He died in 1897 and was succeeded by his only son, Jiwan Singh, also called Fatehyab Singh, who is an Honorary Magistrate and Civil Judge.

Gurbakhsh Singh, nephew of Sardar Atma Singh, a Naib-tahsildar, died in 1882. His son, Harnand Singh, married a daughter of the late Sardar Ajit Singh Atariwala of Amritsar. The family have been fortunate in securing good alliances for their sons and daughters by marriage. They have thus become connected with some of the best houses in the Manjha,

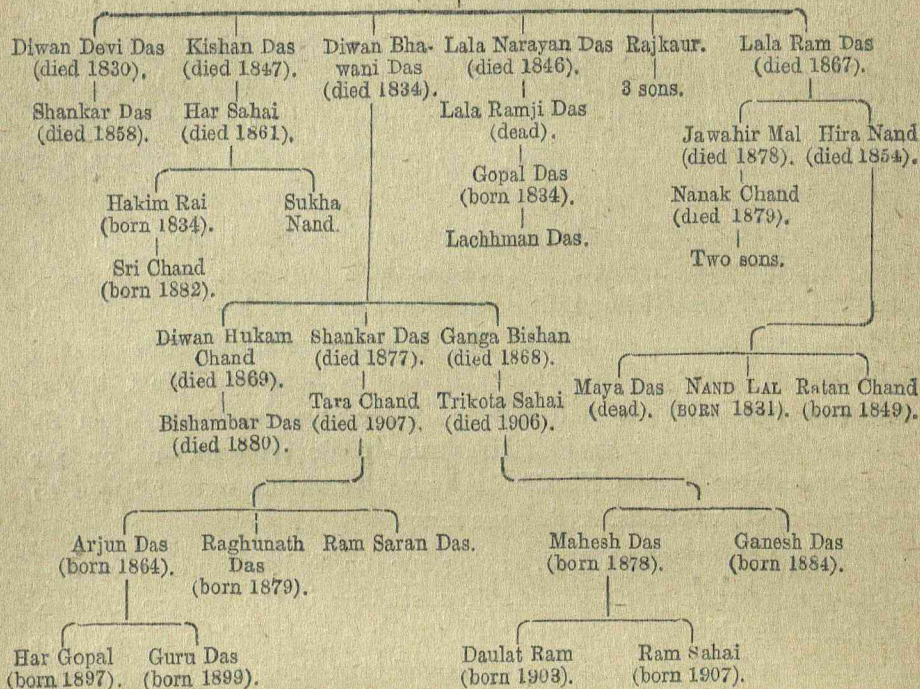
CHIEFS AND FAMILIES OF NOTE.

NAND LAL.

MAHAR CHAND.

Diwan Gurbakhsh Rai.

Diwan Thakur Das
(died 1794).



Gurbakhsh Rai was the first of this family to rise to any eminence. He was the Diwan, or Minister, of Nawab Nasir Khan, the ruler of Kabul and Peshawar, and possessed great influence. His son, Thakur Das, was Diwan to Haji Ata Khan, son-in-law of Shah Wali Khan, chief Minister of Ahmad Shah, the celebrated Durani chief. On the death of the Haji, Thakur Das entered the service of Ahmad Shah, who made him Diwan Khas, or Privy Counsellor, and gave him charge of the seal of state. His wealth and power were considerable, and his style of living was princely. He accompanied Ahmad Shah on his first expedition to India in 1747, and after the capture and sack of Multan received the grant of a valuable *jagir* in the Jullundur Doab. Timur Shah succeeded his father in 1773, and during his



reign of twenty years Thakur Das continued to fill the office of Diwan. He served Shah Zaman during the first year of his troublous reign, and died at an advanced age in 1794.

Bhawani Das, the third son of Thakur Das, was a Revenue officer of high standing under Shah Shuja. He was chiefly employed in collecting the customs of Multan and the Derajat; and in 1808, disgusted at the manner in which he was treated by the Kabul Court, he determined to try and obtain service with Ranjit Singh, and accordingly set off for Lahore, forgetting, it is asserted, to pay into the Treasury the revenue that he had collected. He was well received by the Lahore chief who, surrounded by illiterate soldiers, was much in want of some able man, with a reputation as a financier, to keep his accounts. At this time there was no State Treasury or regular system of accounts at Lahore. The revenue, which amounted to about thirty lakhs of rupees, was managed by the Amritsar banker, Rama Nand, who held the octroi of Amritsar and farmed the salt mines of Pind Dadan Khan. Bhawani Das soon effected a great improvement. He established a pay office for the troops and a finance office, of both of which he was made the head.

Devi Das, his elder brother, joined him at Lahore towards the end of 1809. He had been in the service of Wazir Sher Muhammad, the son of Wazir Shah Wali Khan, Minister of Ahmad Shah. After the assassination of his master he remained for some time in concealment, as he feared the same fate; but at length, effecting his escape, he set out for Lucknow, where his family had been promised an asylum. But his route lay through Lahore; and on his arrival there the persuasions of Ranjit Singh and the high position of his brother induced him to remain. He was associate with Bhawani Das in the Finance Department, neither being subordinate to the other, and they always got on well together. Devi Das was a man of as great ability and of far greater integrity than his brother, but he never became so prominent, as he was of a retiring disposition.

After the cession of the fort of Kangra to Ranjit Singh by Sansar Chand in 1810, and the reduction of the hill chiefs, Bhawani Das was sent to collect the tribute from the Rajas of Mandi and Suket. In 1816 he was made chief Diwan to Prince Kharak Singh, and was employed to reduce the country of the Ramgarhia Sardars about Amritsar and Gurdaspur. The next year he was sent to Jammu to bring the district into order and to



make it over to Gulab Singh, who had just received the title of Raja. He was present at the siege of Multan and shared in the Peshawar and Yusufzai campaigns. But, although the appointments filled by Bhawani Das were many and lucrative, his chief work was as head of the Finance Department. On one occasion he fell into deep disgrace. He had quarrelled with Misra Beli Ram, the Treasurer, who accused him to the Maharaja of embezzlement. The charge was considered proved; and Ranjit Singh, in his passion, struck Bhawani Das in open Darbar with his sheathed sword and fined him a lakh of rupees.* The Diwan was then banished to a hill appointment; but his services were too valuable to be lost, and he was recalled after a few months. He remained Minister of Finance till his death in 1834, when he was succeeded by Lala Dina Nath. Devi Das died four years earlier in 1830.

Hukam Chand, the eldest son of Bhawani Das, was appointed a *Daftari*, or office-keeper, on the establishment of Prince Kharak Singh in 1836, and the next year was made Kardar of Satgarha on Rs. 100 per mensem; and he managed his district with tolerable ability. In 1840 he was sent to Bannu, under the order of Raja Suchet Singh, in one of the many expeditions to collect the revenue by force of arms. He received the title of Diwan from Maharaja Sher Singh. In 1847-48 he was ordered to accompany Lieutenant Edwardes to Bannu. He remained under that officer till the Multan war broke out; and his assistance in the settlement of the Trans-Indus districts was most valuable. He accompanied the British army to Multan, where he behaved very well. Before annexation he was in receipt of Rs. 6,700 per annum, and in 1850 was allowed to retain a *jagir* of Rs. 2,300 in the Pakpattan district and a pension of Rs. 1,300 a year. In 1855 he was made Tahsildar of Pasrur in the Sialkot district; but he did not give satisfaction to the authorities, and in 1858 was permitted to resign. He died in 1869. His son Bishambar Das, a Munsif of the Rawalpindi district, died sonless, in 1880. His nephew Tara Chand was a Deputy Inspector of Police. Trikota Sahai, another nephew, was Superintendent of the Deputy Commissioner's Vernacular office, Hazara, and subsequently reader in the Mir Munshi's office of the Punjab Secretariat. He served on the political staff of the Black Mountain Expedition of 1891, and received a reward of Rs. 300 from Government for the good work done by him on that

* It is commonly believed that this fine was paid by the generous Sardar Jwala Singh Padhanian who was a great friend of Bhawani Das; but Diwan Hukam Chand used to deny the story.



occasion. On his retirement in 1902 he was given three squares of land in the Jhelum Canal Colony. He died in 1906. The *jagir* in the Montgomery district was resumed on the death of Diwan Hukam Chand.

Shankar Das, brother of Diwan Hukam Chand, was a Munshi in his father's office. He and his brother Ganga Bishan each enjoyed a pension of Rs. 240.

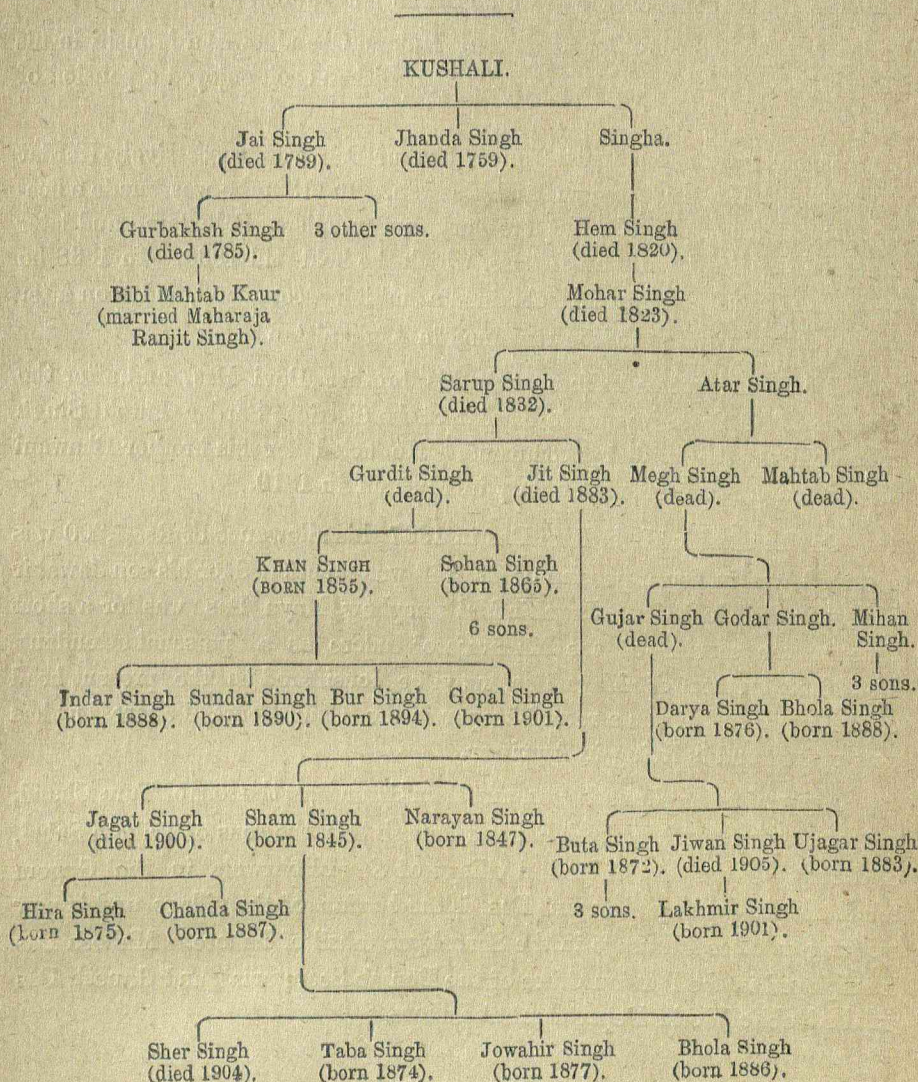
Lala Narayan Das, fourth son of Thakur Das, was successively Kardar of Amritsar, Kangra, Jammu and Jaswan. In 1825 he was made office-keeper of the Moti Mandar Treasury under Misra Beli Ram, and later obtained the Kardarship of Lahore, which he held till 1833. In 1838 he retired to Kabul, where he obtained a military command, and soon after died. His son and grandson remained in Afghanistan.

Raj Kaur came to Lahore with his brother Devi Das, and after the capture of Mankera was made Kardar of the district; Sardar Fateh Singh Man holding the military command. He acted for his brother Bhawani Das, when that officer was on duty in Kashmir in 1819.

On the death of Lala Ram Das in 1867 his allowance of Rs. 1,200 was resumed, and in lieu a pension of Rs. 240 was sanctioned for his son Jawahir Mal, who died in 1878. Jawahir Mal's nephew, Maya Das was for a short time in the service of the Maharaja of Indore as a personal attendant. Nand Lal, brother of Maya Das, may be considered as the present head of the family. He was a record-keeper in the Chief Court, Lahore, but has now retired and is living in Amritsar.

Arjun Das, Raghunath Das, and Ram Saran Das, the sons of Tara Chand, are joint owners with Mahesh Das and Ganesh Das, the sons of Trikota Sahai, of about 750 *ghumaos* of land in village of Kand Bohrwala in the Gugera tahsil of Montgomery. Arjun Das is *tambardar* of the village and is now working as office *Kanungo* in the Sharakpur tahsil of Lahore. Mahesh Das is employed in the Persian Office of the Punjab Secretariat, and Ganesh Das in the Public Works Department at Lahore.

KHAN SINGH KANHAYA.



The Kanhaya Misal was at one time the most powerful of the Sikh confederacies north of the Sutlej. Its first leader was Jai Singh, the son of a Sindhu Jat cultivator named Kushali, who lived at the village of Kanah, which had been founded by one of his tribe, some fifteen miles from



Lahore. From the native village of its leader the confederacy took its name*.

Jai Singh and his brother Jhanda Singh joined the confederacy of Kapur Singh, known as the Faizulapuria, Faizasadpuria or Singhpuria, about the year 1749. On the death of this chief, the brothers retired to Sohian, the village of Jai Singh's father-in-law, about nine miles from Amritsar, collected a troop of about four hundred horse and took possession of the surrounding country. Jhanda Singh was killed five years later in a fight with Nidhan Singh Randhawa at Rawalkotli, and his brother succeeded to his share in the estate, marrying the widow by the rite of *chadar dālna*. Jai Singh soon became a powerful chief, and seized Nag, Makarian, Haji, Karot, Uthian and other Awan villages, while his subordinates and associates all won *jagirs* for themselves. Among the followers of Jai Singh were many well-known names: Amar Singh and Jhanda Singh Bhaga, Lakha Singh Kanowala, Amar Singh Khankra, Budh Singh of Dharamkot, Jhanda Singh Karoh, and others.

In 1759 Desan, the widow of Jhanda Singh and wife of Jai Singh, gave birth to a son, Gurbakhsh Singh, who was married, when nine years of age, to Sada Kaur, daughter of Dasaunda Singh of Alkolwala.

The leader of one great section of the Kanhaya Misal was Hakikat Singh Sangatpuria, a rival of Jai Singh, but nevertheless his friend and associate in many expeditions. In 1763, after Ahmad Shah had retired from the Punjab, having totally defeated the Sikhs near Ludhiana and destroyed the holy temples at Amritsar, these chiefs, allied with Jasa Singh Ahluwalia, Hari Singh Bhangi, and Jasa Singh Ramgarhia, attacked the Pathan town of Kasur, which they captured and sacked after a month's siege. Soon after this Jai Singh quarrelled with Hari Singh Bhangi, and fought him near Eminabad. Neither party could claim the victory; and Jai Singh then marched to Sirhind, ravaging the country as he passed; and was present in the great battle where Zain Khan was defeated and slain, from which the Sikhs date their existence as a nation.

* Some of the country bards tell a romantic story, to the effect that, when the young Jai Singh went to Amritsar to be baptized as a Sikh, the assembled chiefs were so struck with his beauty that they asked him from what village he had come. "I am of Kanah," he said. "Well is your village named Kanah," was the reply, "for you resemble Kanhaya himself?" Kanhaya, or Kanhia, is one of the names of the beautiful Krishna, an incarnation of Vishnu.

In 1773 Raja Ranjit Deo of Jammu, a tributary of Sardar Jhanda Singh Bhangi, quarrelled with his eldest son Brij Raj Deo, whom he desired to exclude from the succession in favour of his youngest son Mian Dalel Singh. Brij Raj Deo called to his assistance Jai Singh and Hakikat Singh Kanhaya and Charat Singh Sukarchakia ; while the Raja summoned Jhanda Singh and all the Bhangi chiefs. The rival forces took up their position on either side of the Basanti, and for some months fought with varying success. The death of Charat Singh from the bursting of his gun gave the advantage at length to the Bhangis, and the Kanhaya chiefs then determined to assassinate Jhanda Singh. They heavily bribed a Mazbi sweeper, who shot him dead as he was riding, attended by only three horsemen, through the camp. The death of Jhanda Singh ended the quarrel. The rival forces retired from Jammu, which became tributary to Hakikat Singh.

The next year Jai Singh and Hakikat Singh built the quarter at Amritsar still known as the Kanhaya Katra ; and soon after this Jai Singh, with a large force escorted the young Mahan Singh, son of Charat Singh, to Badrukh, where he was married to the daughter of Gajpat Singh of Jind.

On the death of Nawab Saif Ali Khan, the Muhammadan Governor of Kangra, in 1774, Raja Sansar Chand Katoch laid siege to the celebrated fort, but was unable to reduce it. He then invited Sardar Jai Singh to assist him ; and Gurbakhsh Singh was accordingly sent with Sardar Baghel Singh and a considerable force. It was not long, however, before Gurbakhsh Singh saw that he who possessed the Kangra fort must be master of all the hill country ; and determined to win it for himself. He persuaded the Raja to offer the garrison very favourable terms, free pardon, money and lands ; and by hints of the Raja's treacherous intentions he induced the besieged to allow his troops to take possession, that their obtaining what was promised might be assured. Both parties were thus duped. Gurbakhsh Singh occupied and held the fort, and Sansar Chand had to retire. Previous to this some of the hill states had been tributary to Sardar Hakikat Singh ; but Jai Singh now became paramount, and all the hill chiefs sought his alliance.

The Ramgarhias and Kanhayas had been fast friends in old days ; but Jai Singh and Jasa Singh had quarrelled about the Kasur prize-money, and the former joined the Ahluwalia and Bhangi chiefs in expelling Jasa Singh



from the Punjab. Raja Ranjit Deo died in 1780, and his son Brij Raj Deo succeeded him. The new Prince wished to win back some of his territory from the Bhangis, and asked Hakikat Singh to assist him. Neither Jai Singh nor Hakikat Singh much liked the business, for the Bhangis were their friends, and Jai Singh had recently married the daughter of a Bhangi chief; but they marched to Karianwala, which after some fighting was taken possession of by the Raja. The Kanhaya chiefs soon left their new ally and went over to the Bhangis, and Hakikat Singh, with Gujar Singh and Bhag Singh Ahluwalia, retook Karianwala and invaded Jammu. Sardar Mahan Singh Sukarchakia, who professed the greatest affection for Brij Raj Deo, with whom he had exchanged turbans, hurried up from Ramnagar, where he had been engaged with the Chatahs, and attacked the camp of Hakikat Singh, but was repulsed with loss. He then, with the Raja, called Jai Singh and Jasa Singh Ahinwalia to his help. These chiefs came and tried to arrange terms, but, finding this hopeless, returned to Amritsar. Mahan Singh was now obliged to submit; and the Raja agreed to pay a tribute of Rs. 30,000 to Hakikat Singh, who, six months later, finding that the payment of the tribute was evaded, proposed to Mahan Singh to join him in an attack on Jammu, dividing the booty between them. To this the Sukarchakia chief, forgetting his friendship with the Raja and the exchanged turbans, readily consented. He marched to Chapral, while Hakikat Singh took the road to Zafarwal, but Mahan Singh kept faith with none of his allies. Finding that the Raja had fled, and that he was strong enough to act alone, he plundered and burnt the city and palace of Jammu, and retired to the plains with great spoil. Hakikat Singh thought of revenge for this treachery, but was taken ill and died shortly afterwards.

When Jai Singh heard of the sack of Jammu and the death of Hakikat Singh he was very indignant. He prevented Jaimal Singh, son of Hakikat Singh, from going to Gujranwala, whither Mahan Singh had invited him, and threatened the Sukarchakia chief with his vengeance; and in 1783 he marched against Jandiala and plundered Rasulpur and Mandiala, and then attacked the possessions of Wazir Singh and Bhagwan Singh, the Nakai chiefs, connections of Mahan Singh, and compelled them to submit. At the *Diwali* of 1784 Mahan Singh went to Amritsar and tried hard to make peace with Jai Singh, but in vain. He was threatened with imprisonment



if he did not restore the Jammu spoil, and was treated with so much rudeness that he fled from Amritsar, determined on revenge. There were many ready to join him in an attack on the Kanhaya chief. Chief of these were Sansar Chand of Katoch, and Jasa Singh Ramgarhia who had been wandering for years an exile in the wastes of Hariana. The allies marched to Batala, and about eight miles from that town were met by Gurbakhsh Singh, who offered them battle. For six hours the fight was continued, till an arrow, shot by one of Guru Sundar Das' men, struck Gurbakhsh Singh in the breast and wounded him mortally; and the Kanhaya troops, having lost their leader, were completely routed.

Jai Singh was so distressed at the loss of his son that he made no further resistance. Kangra he gave up to Sansar Chand, and restored to Jasa Singh Ramgarhia his old possessions; while to cement friendship with Mahan Singh he betrothed Mahtab Kaur, daughter of his dead son, to the youthful Ranjit Singh, afterwards Maharaja of the Punjab. The betrothal took place in 1785, and the marriage at the close of the next year.

Jai Singh never recovered his former power, and died in 1789, when his daughter-in-law, Sada Kaur, became head of the Kanhaya Misal. Mention has been made elsewhere of the ability, the unscrupulousness and the intrigues of this woman. It was through her assistance mainly that Ranjit Singh became master of the Punjab; and she retained a large portion of the Kanhaya estates till 1820, when her greedy son-in-law made an excuse for seizing them all.

Hem Singh, the nephew of Sardar Jai Singh, had received the grant of the *ilaka* of Rukhanwala, worth Rs. 40,000, after the capture of Kasur, and this he retained under Ranjit Singh. He fought with that chief against Kasur during the last campaign of 1807, and received another estate at Khodian worth Rs. 10,000. He died in 1820. His son, Mohar Singh, fought at Multan and in Kashmir; and in 1821 he was stationed at Pul Kanjri and Waniki to watch the ferries. He died at the last-named place in 1823. To his sons, who were employed on the same service, Rs. 30,000 of their father's estate was assigned. Sarup Singh died in 1832, and the *jagir* was given by the Maharaja to Kahan Singh Banka. The village of Rukhanwala alone was left to the family; but the next year the village of Kali was granted to Atar Singh's two widows. The sons of Atar Singh made many applications to Maharaja Sher Singh for the release of the



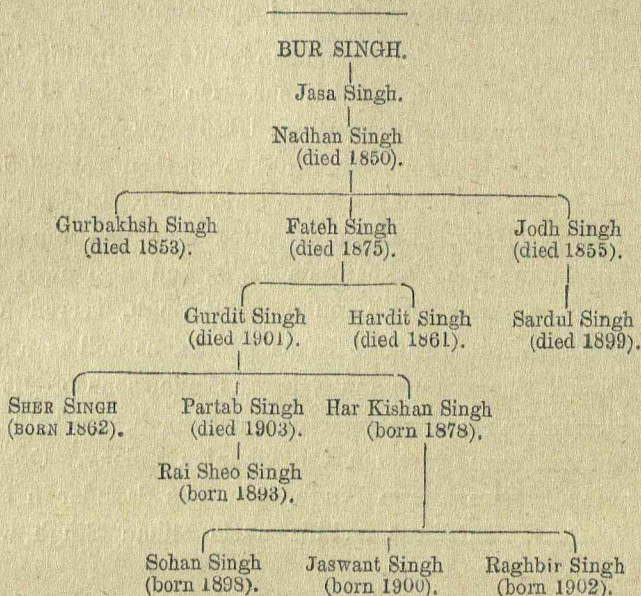
estate, but in vain. Both served in the Ghorcharas till 1846, when the general reductions were made after the Sutlej campaign.

After the annexation of the Punjab the family retained in *jagir* the villages of Rukhanwala and Kali, tahsil Kasur. On the death of Sardar Jit Singh in 1883, one-fourth of the *jagir* (*viz.*, 1,125 acres, yielding Rs. 600 annually) was resumed. His son Jagat Singh was then regarded as the head of the family, but since his death the claims of Khan Singh, son of Gurdit Singh, to the position have been admitted by Jagat Singh's sons. Khan Singh now enjoys the Rukhanwala *jagir*, and also owns land in Khana Kohna village. Hira Singh, son of Jagat Singh, served for some years in the army, and owns land in Kahna Kohna, as well as a grant in the Chunian Colony. Sham Singh and Narayan Singh, sons of Jit Singh, and Buta Singh and Ujagar Singh, sons of Gujar Singh, also hold land in the same village and have grants in the Chunian Colony. Other land-owners in the family are Darya Singh, who is a daffadar in the 19th Lancers, his brother Bhola Singh and his uncle Mihan Singh, who is a *lambardar* in the Chunian Colony.

The family is not represented in Darbar.

CHIEFS AND FAMILIES OF NOTE.

SHER SINGH OF MARAKE.



The little village of Marake, situated a few miles below Lahore on the Ravi, was founded by an ancestor of Sher Singh, whose descendants resided there for many generations. When Ahmad Shah Durani invaded the Punjab for the third time in 1752, Bur Singh was *Chaudhri* of Marake and the surrounding villages. But reports reached Lahore that Marake was little better than a nest of robbers, and the monarch sent a force to destroy the village. The work was well done. Marake was burned to the ground; men, women and children were put to the sword; and Bur Singh and his son Jasa Singh, who were absent from the village, were almost the only ones that escaped. Whether the reputation of Bur Singh's village was deserved or not, it is certain that after its destruction he joined a band of robbers, and in one of their marauding expeditions was killed. Jasa Singh followed his father's profession, and became of some importance at the head of an organized body of horse. He obtained possession of Daska in the Sialkot District, and took up his residence there. He was engaged in constant conflicts with Sardar Charat Singh Snkarchakia, and with the residents of the neighbouring town of Eminabad. On one occasion the latter had assembled in force and, taking the town of Daska by surprise, carried off a large quantity of booty. Jasa Singh pursued them with his horsemen and, after a severe fight, the

booty was recovered ; but the chief fell mortally wounded. His son Nadhan Singh was of a bold and enterprising disposition, and acquired a large increase of territory. The surrounding chiefs, Mahan Singh of Gujranwala, Sahib Singh of Gujrat, Punjab Singh of Sialkot and Jodh Singh of Wazirabad, became jealous of his power, and were so continually engaged in hostilities with him that Nadhan Singh used to say that there was not a rood of ground in his territories on which men and horses had not fallen.

In 1797, when Shah Zaman invaded the Punjab, one of the few Sikh chiefs who welcomed him was Sardar Nadhan Singh, who much felt the need of a powerful ally. He met the Kabul monarch on the banks of the Chenab, and was most graciously received, being confirmed in all his estates, and appointed to keep open communications between Lahore and Wazirabad. Soon after this Ranjit Singh, rising to power, summoned Nadhan Singh to attend him, but the high spirited chief refused ; and it was not till 1810 that he with two hundred and fifty horsemen consented to accompany the Maharaja on his Multan expedition. At the close of the campaign, Nadhan Singh returned to Daska, contrary to the orders of Ranjit Singh, who determined to punish the contumacious chief. He laid siege to the fort of Daska, bringing against it the great Bhangi gun, which was only used on important occasions. After a month's siege Nadhan Singh was forced to surrender ; and, on the promise of protection given to him by the Maharaja through Baba Mulak Raj and Bedi Jamiat Singh, he came into camp, where, in violation of the promise, he was arrested and put in irons. The priests were very indignant at this breach of faith, and, it is said, sat *Dharma* on Ranjit Singh until he released Nadhan Singh, who forthwith fled to Kashmir and took service with Ata Muhammad Khan. He was, however, soon recalled, and a great portion of his estate was restored to him subject to the service of one hundred horsemen. In 1822, after the fall of Mankera, he received the grant of Baharpur near Dera Ismail Khan, worth Rs. 80,000 ; but this was shortly after restored to the Nawab, and Nadhan Singh received in exchange a large *jagir* in Hazara, where he remained for some time. After an engagement with Painsa Khan, in which he was severely wounded, he begged to be relieved of his troublesome charge, and was accordingly, in 1824, placed under the orders of Prince Kharak Singh, and in 1827 was transferred to the Ghorcharas on Rs. 1,700 per mensem. He remained in this force till 1845, when he retired to Marake where he died five years afterwards.

He was generally known as Nadhan Singh Hatu or Atu, and two derivations of the name are given. The first is, that Hatu is derived from the Punjabi *Hat*, meaning 'courage.' The second derives Atu from the Punjabi *Ath*, eight, from a tradition regarding a lady of the family who was so fortunate as to secure eight husbands. But there does not appear any good authority for the latter derivation.

Sardar Fateh Singh commenced his military career in his father's contingent, in which he remained till 1827, when he was placed in the Ghorchara Kalan Regiment, and two years later in the Dhanj Brigade under Misra Sukh Raj on Rs. 90 a month. In 1835 he accompanied the Maharaja to Peshawar, when Dost Muhammad Khan was so cleverly outmanœuvred by Ranjit Singh; and in 1840 he was sent, under Arjun Singh Rangar Nanglia, to Kulu, which was in a disturbed state. He accompanied Imam-ud-din Khan to Kashmir, and after the death of Raja Hira Singh was ordered to Rajauri and Punch to put down an insurrection there. During the Sutlej campaign, Fateh Singh remained under Sardar Gulab Singh Povindia to protect the Maharaja and the capital, and on the restoration of peace he was appointed Commandant of the new corps, Suraj Mukhi. In 1847 he accompanied Lieutenant (afterwards Sir H. B.) Edwardes to Bannu, and served throughout the Multan campaign. He was engaged with his corps at the battles of Kaneri and Sadusam; and at both sieges of Multan his conduct and that of his men was exceedingly good. In 1857 he was in command of the Police Battalion at Ambala, and did admirable service both there and at Delhi. In 1862 he received his discharge, with a pension of Rs. 250 and a grant of six hundred acres of waste land at Lakhwal. He had, in addition, Rs. 300 of *jagir* at Marake, where he resided, as well as proprietary rights in the village. Sardar Fateh Singh died in 1875. His son Gurdit Singh was first employed as Jamadar in the Suraj Mukhi on Rs. 30 a month. He was successively promoted to the Subadarship and Adjutantcy in the 5th Police Battalion on Rs. 150; but in 1862, at the time of the general Police reductions, he was discharged with a gratuity of Rs. 1,500. He again took service in the Police, and became an Inspector in the Montgomery district on a salary of Rs. 200 per mensem. His father's life pension, of course, ceased, and of the *jagir* one-third was resumed. Gurdit Singh died in 1901 and his *jagir* and other property have been divided equally among his three sons. His eldest son Sher Singh, who served for some years in the Police as a Deputy Inspector, is now regarded as the head of the family. The second son,

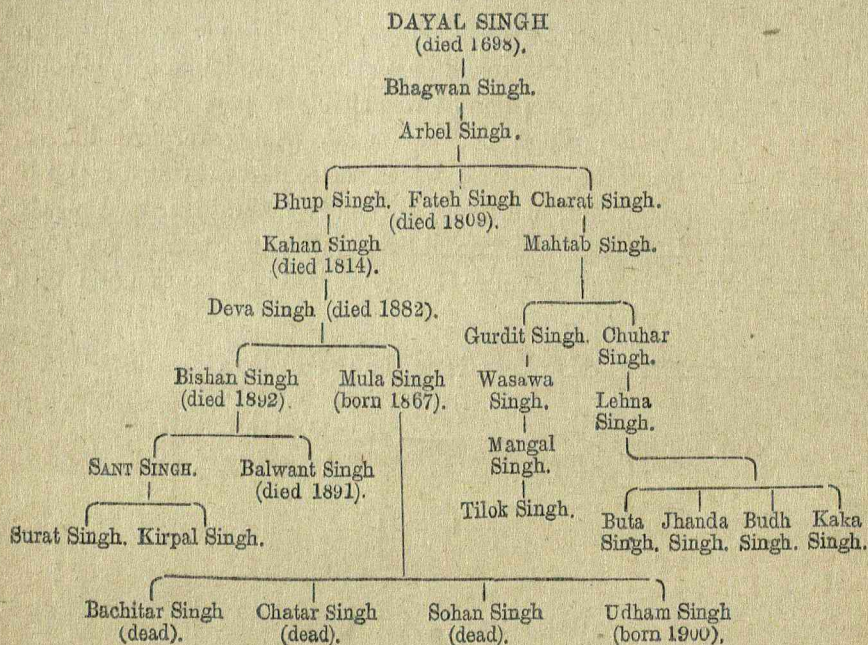


Partab Singh, received a direct commission and died in 1903. The youngest son, Har Kishan Singh, is a Court Inspector of Police at Multan.

Jodh Singh, half brother of Fateh Singh, changed his religion from inability to pay a debt. He took from a merchant at Rawalpindi a handsome and valuable horse, the price of which he was unable to pay. He applied to his father; but Nadhan Singh had no money to spare. At length, seeing no way of paying for the horse which he could not bring himself to give up, he rode off to Kabul, where he turned Muhammadan, and where he died in 1855. He left one son, Sardul Singh, who after serving for some years as a Subadar in the Frontier Force, retired on a pension and died in 1899.

No representative of this family is on the Darbar list.

SANT SINGH SIDHU.



Dayal Singh was the first of this branch of the Sidhu family to become a Sikh, and was killed in battle near Anandpur in 1698. His son Bhagwan Singh supported himself as much by plunder as by agriculture ; and his grandson, Arbel Singh, having built a fort at Sidhu, and having collected some two hundred horsemen, contrived to make himself master of forty surrounding villages. He had connected himself with several of the powerful neighbouring chiefs, marrying one son to a daughter of Sardar Gujar Singh of Lahore, and another to a daughter of Sardar Sudh Singh Dodia ; so that he was not disturbed in his modest possessions. His son Bhup Singh, who succeeded him, was less fortunate, for Sardar Amir Singh of Saurian, his kinsman, having invaded the estate and carried off a large quantity of plunder, Bhup Singh pursued him, and was killed in an ambuscade laid by the enemy. Shortly afterwards Ranjit Singh seized most of the Sidhu territory, leaving in the possession of Kahan Singh about fifteen villages subject to the service of twenty-five sowars. He also made Kahan Singh Commandant in a Cavalry Regiment, and gave Fateh Singh, his uncle, a subordinate appointment. Fateh Singh was killed in the



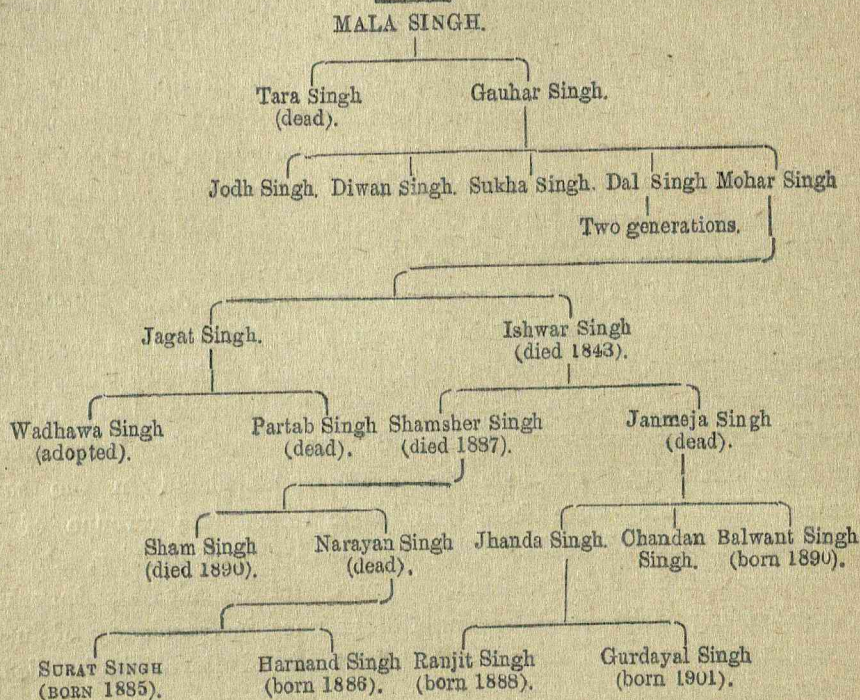
Kangra campaign in 1809 ; and his *jagir* was given to his nephew Kahan Singh who, however, did not enjoy it long, as he fell with other members of his family in the unsuccessful Kashmir expedition of 1814.

Deva Singh, who was an infant at the time of his father's death, received a grant of four villages, worth Rs. 3,000, for his maintenance, subject to the service of four sowars, and in 1838 was placed in Prince Kharak Singh's force. In 1848 he remained faithful to Government, and did good service against the rebel Dhara Singh of Gugera. His villages, Bhudan, Bhatianwala, Dhar and Diloki, worth Rs. 2,500, were released to him for life on payment of two-fifths as *nazrana* ; and on his death Bhudan and Bhatianwala were maintained in perpetuity to his heirs on payment of one-third *nazrana*. He died in 1882. His sons petitioned that, as the value of the *jagirs* in Budhanke and Bhatianwala had fallen by reduction in the assessment to Rs. 593 per annum, they were entitled to have made up to them Rs. 1,000 as stipulated in the *sanad* under which they were held. In their *sanad* the revenue of the villages was stated to be Rs. 1,500, which they were to enjoy, subject to a *nazrana* deduction of one-third. It was, however, ruled that they must take according to the actual revenue of the villages, independently of fluctuations at Settlement. Bishan Singh, eldest son of Deva Singh, died in 1892, and his son Sant Singh may be regarded as head of the family, which is now of little importance and has no seat in Darbar. He resides at Budhanke in the Sharakpur tahsil.



CHIEFS AND FAMILIES OF NOTE.

SURAT SINGH MARI.



The Mari family is of the Shergil tribe, the origin of which has been elsewhere related.* By this tribe several villages were founded in the Lahore and Amritsar districts, and among others Malanwala, Deva, Deva Masur and Mari. At the first-named of these the family of Surat Singh resided till the Durani invasion, when, the village having been destroyed by the Afghans, Mala Singh fled to Deva Masur, which he made his head-quarters, and from whence he conducted marauding expeditions till he fell in a skirmish with the imperial troops, leaving two sons, Tara Singh and Gauhar Singh, the latter of whom became a powerful chief. He joined the Bhangi Sardars Kushhal Singh and Budh Singh Faizulapuria, and took possession of territory in the Jullundur Doab and to the south of the Sutlej. Leaving his sons, Jodh Singh,

*The Gils inhabit the Lahore, Amritsar, Gujranwala and Ferozepore districts. As romantic a story is told of Gil, the founder of the tribe, as that regarding his son Shergil. He was the son of a Rajput chief, Prithipat or Pirthipal, by a Jat woman, and, like Shergil, he was exposed when an infant in a swamp, 'gili, from which his name Gil, is derived.



Diwan Singh and Sukha Singh, to hold these estates, Gauhar Singh returned to his ancestral village of Mari, half way between Amritsar and Ferozepore, where he built a mud fort, traces of which still exist; and his name is perpetuated in the village, which is known as Mari Gauhar Singhwala.

When Ranjit Singh seized the country south of Lahore, the fort of Mari, then held by Mohar Singh, the youngest son of Gauhar Singh, was besieged by him. Resistance was useless; and Mohar Singh gave up the fort and territory, obtaining favourable terms and large estates at Piru Chak, Bujhara, Samra and Manapur.

Sardar Gauhar Singh died shortly after this, and the Cis-Sutlej estates were seized by the Maharaja of Patiala, Bhag Singh Ahluwalia and Jodh Singh Kalsia. The descendants of Jodh Singh, Sukha Singh and Diwan Singh are still resident in the Ambala district, where they hold a few villages.

Mohar Singh with his brother Dal Singh held the *jagir* for some years exempt from service; but it was later made subject to one hundred horsemen. Mohar Singh served in the Kashmir campaign, in which he was wounded. He distinguished himself at the battle of Teri in 1823, after which he was placed in command of five hundred cavalry. He was engaged under General Ventura in 1831 in annexing the possessions of the Bahawalpur chief north of the Sutlej,* and the next year he died; while half the estates in Sialkot, Dinanagar and Kasur were continued to his son Ishwar Singh. There is little to record of this chief, who served with his contingent at Kulu, Suket, Hazara and Peshawar, at which latter place he died in 1843 of fever.

Shamsher Singh held the *jagirs* throughout the administration of Hira Singh, Jawahir Singh and Lal Singh. He accompanied Raja Sher Singh Atariwala to Multan in 1848, and rebelled with him. Al-

* Soon after the death of Bahawal Khan II. in 1811, Ranjit Singh demanded tribute for the Bahawalpur territory north of the Sutlej. Sadik Muhammad Khan sometimes refused payment altogether, and always resisted till he succeeded in gaining more favourable terms. First Rs. 50,000 a year was asked; then a lakh; and the demand was raised till, at Sadik Muhammad's death, it stood at five lakhs, which was about as much as Bahawal Khan III., who succeeded Sadik Muhammad in 1826, could raise from the country. The Khan neither could nor would pay; and in 1831 General Ventura occupied the territory, pledging himself to pay eleven lakhs the first year to Government.



though a very young man, he possessed ability and influence, and his whole *jagirs*, worth Rs. 27,000, were confiscated, though in 1850 a pension of Rs. 720 was allowed him for life. To his younger brother Janmeja Singh, who had married Tej Kaur, daughter of Sardar Chatar Singh Atariwala, the young lady to whom Maharaja Dalip Singh had been betrothed, a life pension of Rs. 360 was granted. In 1860 a rent-free holding was granted to Shamsher Singh worth Rs. 200. He also had proprietary rights in Mari Gauhar Singhwala and Kazi Chak. He died in 1887 and his two sons, neither of them of much standing, survived him only for a few years. His grandson Surat Singh, *lambardar* of Mari Kaur Singhwala, may now be regarded as the head of the family. Surat Singh's younger brother, Harnand Singh, is a Dafadar in the 39th Central India Horse and his cousin Jhanda Singh is *lambardar* of Mauza Kazi Chak. Surat Singh and Harnand Singh each have a fourth share in the villages of Mari Gauhar Singhwala and Kazi Chak, and Jhanda Singh and his brothers one-sixth each. The family is now of little importance.

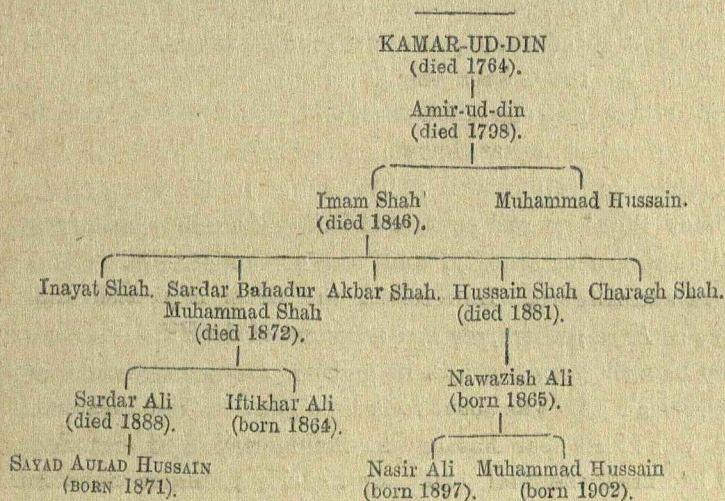
Gujar Singh, Bhup Singh and Kesar Singh, sons of Dal Singh, were cavalry officers under General Avitabile. All have been dead for many years.



LAHORE DISTRICT.

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SAYAD AULAD HUSSAIN.



The family of Aulad Hussain is of Persian descent. Kamar-ud-din was an officer in the army of Nadir Shah and accompanied that chief to India, remaining behind as a settler in the neighbourhood of Delhi when the invading army retired. He afterwards went to live at Gango in Saharanpur, where he died in 1764. Amir-ud-din, his son, then left for Lucknow, where Shuja-ud-daula was Nawab; and entered his service, first as *Thanadar* and afterwards as a revenue collector. Failing to pay the Government demand he was thrown into prison; and, though released after a short time, did not obtain fresh employment till the accession of Asaf-ud-daula in 1775. He was murdered at Pabli by some Gujars in 1798; and his son Imam Shah, fearing the same fate, left for Lucknow, where he lived for some time with an old retired officer of Artillery, by name Bahadur Khan, who taught the lad all that he knew. As he could get no employment at the Court of Oudh, Imam Shah determined to seek his fortune elsewhere. Hearing that Hindustanis were in request in Kabul he proceeded thither; but at Wazirabad in the Punjab he met Sardar Jodh Singh, who easily induced him to enter his service as *Jamadar* of Artillery. The next year the Sardar died; and Imam Shah then entered the army of Maharaja Ranjit Singh, and fought in many battles as Colonel of Artillery. He served throughout the reign of Ranjit Singh and his successors, and was killed at Sobraon in 1846.



Muhammad Shah, his second son, was made a Commandant of Artillery when eighteen years of age. He fought in the Sutlej campaign, and under the Darbar was successively posted at Pind Dadan Khan, Hassan Abdal and Hazara. In 1849, when the 5th Punjab Cavalry was first raised, Muhammad Shah was appointed to it, and served in this Regiment till 1859. On the frontier he was known as a first-rate officer both for bravery and intelligence. As senior native officer of his squadron he served throughout the siege and capture of Delhi, the relief and capture of Lucknow, the capture of Bareilly, and the actions of Bilandshahar, Fatehgarh, Agra and Aligarh. He received the Order of British India for his gallantry at Agra; where, seeing a squadron of the Fifth in danger of being cut up by a shower of grape, he galloped forward alone and cut down the artilleryman who was about to fire the gun. When Lieutenant Younghusband was killed near Fatehgarh, Muhammad Shah cut down the sepoy who had fired the fatal ball. By the side of Major Sandford, who succeeded Lieutenant Younghusband in command of the squadron, Muhammad Shah fought with conspicuous courage; and when that officer fell, he protected his body, buried it decently, and built over it a tomb. The most valued of the many testimonials received by Muhammad Shah was a gold watch sent from England by the relatives of Major Sandford, in acknowledgment of his devotion.

In January 1859 Muhammad Shah was appointed Commandant of the 3rd Oudh Military Police under Captain C. Chamberlain. His services were specially asked for by this officer, who knew his worth, his energy, and his thorough knowledge of his military duties. When the Military Police were broken up in November 1859, he was made Commandant in the new Police, and held the post with credit till February 1861, when, on reductions being made in the force, he took his discharge.

Muhammad Shah received the title of Sardar Bahadur. He enjoyed a pension of Rs. 1,800 cash and a life *jagir* of Rs. 2,000 in the Baraich district. He was the author of a creditable work on cavalry tactics. He died in 1872, leaving two sons and three daughters. The management of the property was vested in the eldest son, Sardar Ali; but his affairs became involved shortly after his father's death, and the interests of the other children suffered in consequence. In 1882 he was appointed Tahsildar at Fyzabad in Oudh, and was transferred four years later to the

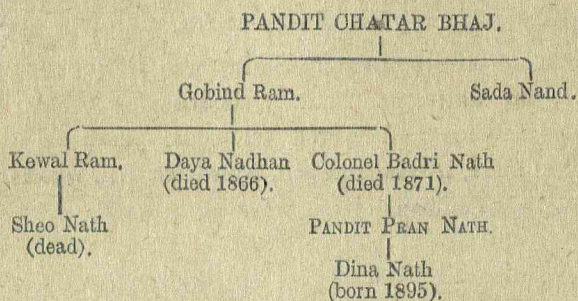


Jaunpur district as Inspector of Police. He died in 1888. His younger brother, Iftikhar Ali, is a Sub-Inspector of Police at Benares. The *jagir* has passed to Aulad Hussain, only son of Sardar Ali.

Muhammad Shah's brother, Hussain Shah, was a Subadar in the Oudh Military Police, but when the Military Police was broken up, he joined the Provincial Police and served for some years as a Deputy Inspector. He died in 1881, leaving one son, Nawazish Ali, who is now a Sub-Inspector of Police at Multan.



PANDIT PRAN NATH.



Colonel Badri Nath was one of the Sikh officers who on the annexation of the Punjab transferred their services to the British Government. His father was a native of Kashmir, and emigrated to the Punjab at the beginning of the last century. In 1821 Badri Nath entered the Maharaja's army as a private soldier, and gradually rose through all the grades of the service till, in 1835, he was made Colonel, which rank he held till the second Sikh War. He saw plenty of fighting during these years, and was in the campaigns of Swat, Peshawar, Hazara, Yusufzai, Bannu, Tirah, and numerous actions. For long he served on the frontier, and was for six years in charge of the forts of Dera Ismail Khan and Tonk. He was with Sardar Hari Singh Nalwa in 1833, when that chief, in the most masterly manner, won Peshawar from the Barakzais. In 1845 he was stationed in Hazara, under Diwan Mul Raj Dilwalwala, with the *Katar Mukhi* Regiment and some Gurkhas. In 1846 he accompanied Major H. Lawrence to Kashmir, where Shaikh Imam-ud-din Khan was in revolt, and the next year went with Lieutenant Edwardes to Bannu. He served throughout the siege of Multan with the *Katar Mukhi*; and after the close of the war retained his command till, on the introduction of the new Police, he took his discharge. Colonel Badri Nath was known as a brave and able officer, and the force under him was always in a good state of discipline. In 1857, the fort of Multan, the magazine and the treasury were entrusted to his corps, and the regiment also furnished detachments which fought against the mutineers and insurgents with gallantry and credit. In 1861 the Government, in sanctioning his retirement, granted him a life pension of Rs. 600, inclusive of the allowance attached to the Order of British India,



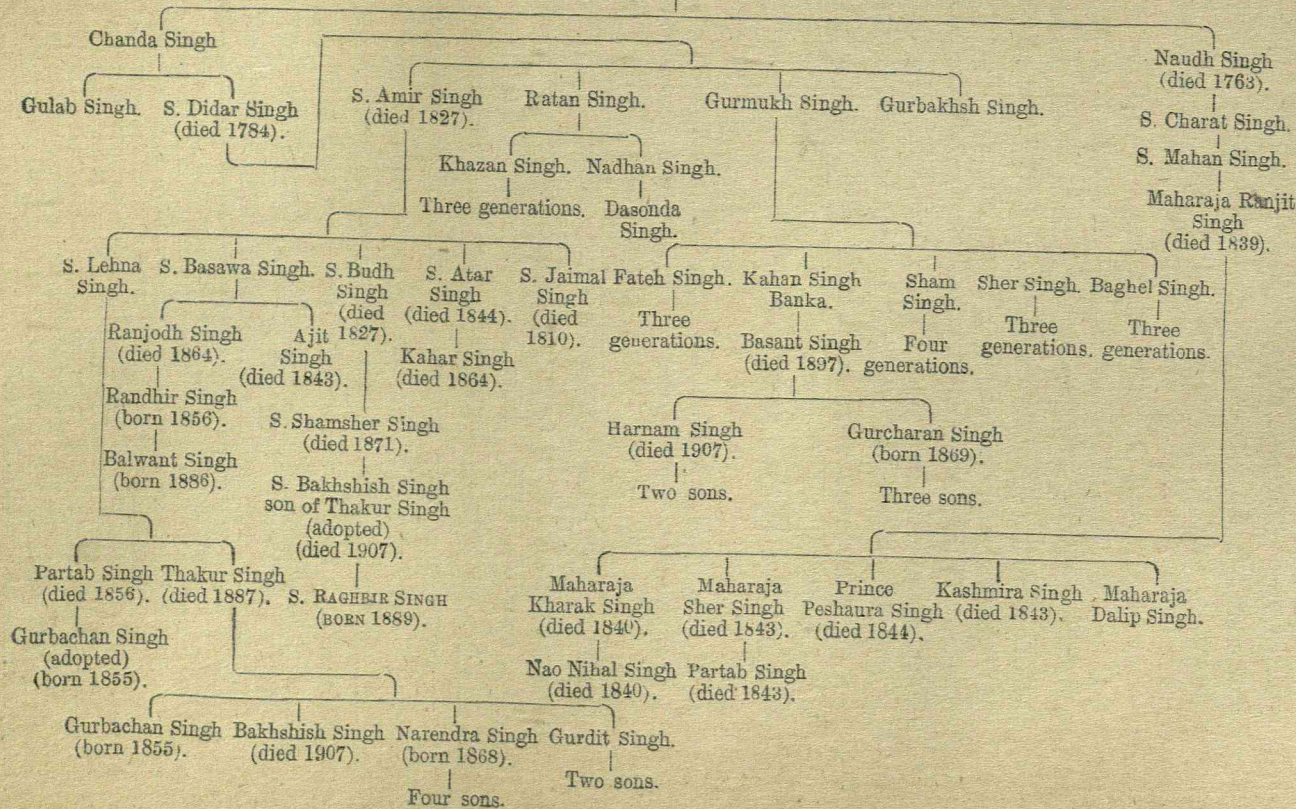
which he obtained in 1857 in recognition of his loyalty and gallantry. The allowances lapsed at his death in 1871.

His son Pran Nath took service as a clerk in the Ordnance Department. In 1872 he was appointed an Inspector of Post Offices and ultimately rose to be Postmaster of Delhi on a salary of Rs. 400 per mensem. He retired on pension in March 1904 and now resides in Lahore City, where he owns some house property. The family is not represented in Darbar.



SARDAR RAGHBIR SINGH SINDHANWALIA.

BUDHA SINGH
(died 1718).



AMRITSAR DISTRICT.



The two principal families in the Punjab proper, highest in rank and possessing the widest influence, are the Ahluwalia and the Sindhanwalia. The possessions of the Ahluwalia chief are almost entirely situated in the Jullundur Doab; whilst of all Sikh families, between the Beas and the Indus, the Sindhanwalia chief is the acknowledged head. Nearly related to this family was the great Maharaja himself; and it was in a great measure owing to their connection with him that the Sindhanwalia Sardars obtained so large a share of wealth and power.

The Sindhanwalias are of the Jat Sansi tribe and, like most Jats, claim a Rajput origin, and state that their ancestor, a Bhati Rajput, by name Shal, came from Ujain to the Punjab, where he founded Sialkot. The Bhatīs do not appear, however, to have settled so far south as Ujain; and the Shal alluded to is doubtless Raja Shal, or Salvahan, son of Raja Gaj of Jaisalmer, who, after his father's death in battle with the King of Khorasan, came to the Punjab, where he destroyed Lahore and rebuilt the town of Sialkot,* which place he made his capital.

Salvahan introduced a new era, called the *Shaka*, according to some, in memorial of a victory which he gained over Vikramaditya, near Sialkot. But Salvahan was not a contemporary of Vikramaditya, who never came to the Punjab at all. The *Shaka* era was founded in the one hundred and forty-sixth year of the era of Vikramaditya.

Raja Salvahan had sixteen sons, all of whom became independent, and from whom many of the hill Princes have descended. The chief of them were Baland, Puran, Risala, Dharamgadh, Rupa and Sundar.

The houses of Patiala, Nabha, Jind, Malaudh, Bhadaur, Faridkot, Kaithal and Atari are descended from the eldest son of Jandhar, the fifth from Raja Salvahan or Shal; while the Sindhanwalias pretend that they and the Muhammadan Bhatīs are descended from the second son.

The origin of the family name of Sansi is thus related by the Sindhanwalias. Sohanda, sixth in descent from Jandhar, saw all his children die,

* Sialkot is one of the most ancient towns in the Punjab. It is said to have been founded about 3400 B. C. by Raja Shal, maternal uncle of the Pandus, whose descendants reigned there for many hundred years. It then was abandoned until Salvahan rebuilt it, according to Punjab chroniclers, about 90 A.D.; according to the Bhati chroniclers of Rajputana 16 A.D. Supposing that Sialkot is original Salvahan, the capital of Salvahana, and the identity of the two places seems probable, Sialkot has been also known as Shalkot, Salkant and Risalkot (from Risala the son of Salvahan). The Sial Rajputs, who now inhabit the country about Jhang, claim to have founded Sialkot and to have given to the town their name. That they once settled there and built a fort seems certain; but the town was founded many years before their arrival in the Punjab.

one after another, within a few days of their birth. He accordingly consulted the Brahmans and astrologers, who told him that he must give his next child to the first person who should come to the house after its birth. In due time a son was born, and the first person to stop at Sohanda's house, after the event, was a beggar of Sansi tribe, and to him, in spite of the mother's entreaties, the new-born child was given. The old beggar would have preferred money or food; but he took the child away with him. However, by the next day he had had quite enough of it, and brought it back to Sohanda, who after a second consultation with the Brahmans took the child, who was from this adventure called Sansipal or Sainsarpal (cherished by the Sansi); and the name has belonged to the family ever since. Another story states that the wife of Sohanda was taken in labour at a considerable distance from her home, and was compelled to take refuge in a Sansi village, where she received every attention and remained till she had recovered. The son born under these circumstances was called Sansi. But, from a comparison of the Sindhanwalia genealogy with that of the Bhatias, it appears probable that Sans was the name of a son of Bhoni, fourth in descent from Jaudhar, and that from Sansi the Sindhanwalias and the Sansis have a common descent. The Sansis are a thievish and degraded tribe; and the house of Sindhanwala, naturally feeling ashamed of its Sansi name, has invented a romantic story to account for it. But the relationship between the nobles and the beggars does not seem the less certain; and if the history of Maharaja Ranjit Singh be attentively considered, it will appear that much of his policy and many of his actions had the true Sansi complexion.

Raja Sansi, the present residence of the Sindhanwalias, was founded about the year 1570 by Raja and Kirtu; and Khokar, the great-grandson of Kirtu, settled in the Tarn Taran waste, and founded there several villages. From Wigah, grandson of Khokar, have descended, on one side the family of Sindhanwala and, on the other, that of Ladwa. The grandson of Wigah, by name Takht Mal, received from the Emperor Alamgir a *farman*, still in possession of the family, making him *chaudhri*, with power to collect revenue in the *ilaka* of Yusafpur. This *farman*, however, is unattested, and may be a modern forgery. Bhara Mal, son of Takht Mal, seems to have been a Sikh of the unorthodox sect called *Sahaj Dhari*; and although he never took the *pauhal* he wandered through the villages preaching the doctrines of Gobind. His son Budha Singh, an orthodox Sikh, was cele-



brated as a bold and successful robber. In his days cattle-lifting was as honourable a profession as it was on the Scottish border three hundred years ago ; and Budha Singh, on his famous piebald mare Desi, was the terror of the surrounding country. He was wounded some forty times by spear, matchlock or sword, and died at last in his bed, like an honest man, in the year 1718. His two sons, Chanda Singh and Naudh Singh were as enterprising and successful as their father. About the year 1730 they rebuilt the village of Sukarchak, which had been founded some time previously by the Gil Jats, but had fallen into ruin, and, collecting round them a band of hard-riding Sikhs, seized several villages in its neighbourhood, and even made marauding expeditions across the Ravi into the Gujranwala district. Naudh Singh was killed in 1763 in a fight with the Afghans at Majitha, where he had gone to celebrate his marriage in the family of Gulab Singh Gil.

His son Charat Singh, who was only five years old at the time of his father's death, became a very powerful Sardar, and rose to the command of the Sukarchakia *Misal*. Under him fought his cousin Didar Singh at Gujranwala, Pind Dadan Khan and elsewhere. After Sardar Mahan Singh had succeeded his father, and had taken Rasulnagar and Gujranwala, Sardar Didar Singh obtained, as his share of the spoil, Pind Sawakha, Dalot and Sindhanwala, which last village has given its name to the family. He was killed in a skirmish on the banks of the Chenab in 1784, and his cenotaph is still to be seen in the village of Daulat Nagar.

Sardar Amir Singh, with his brothers Gurbakhsh Singh and Ratan Singh, succeeded to all the estates of his father, and soon contrived to enlarge them. He continued to follow the fortunes of his cousins, the Sukarchakia chiefs, and as they, Mahan Singh and Ranjit Singh, rose to power he seized with impunity Bal Sehchandar and other villages in the neighbourhood of Raja Sansi. In 1803, however, Amir Singh fell into deep disgrace at Court. The story is, that one morning, as Ranjit Singh came out of the Saman Burj and was preparing to mount his horse, Amir Singh was seen to unsling his gun, prime it and blow the match. The bystanders accused him of seeking the life of his chief, and Ranjit Singh, who believed the charge, dismissed him from Court. He took refuge with Baba Sabib Singh Bedi of Una, at whose intercession, after some time, Ranjit Singh again took him into favour, and placed him specially under the protection and in the force of Sardar Fateh Singh Kalianwala.



Amir Singh accompanied the Maharaja in the Kasur campaign of 1807, and in the expedition against the Muhammadan tribes between the Chenab and the Indus in 1810. In this expedition Jaimal Singh, his youngest son, was killed in a skirmish before Kila Khairabad. In 1809, when on the death of Raja Jai Singh of Jammu, Ranjit Singh seized that country, he made over to Amir Singh the *ilakas* of Harnia, Naunar and Rata Abdal. Two years later Amir Singh introduced into the Maharaja's service his son Budh Singh, who soon became a great favourite at Court.

The first independent command of Budh Singh was at Bahawalpur, whither he had been sent to enforce the payment of the stipulated tribute. In 1821, with his father and brother Atar Singh, he captured the forts of Mojgarh and Jamgarh. For these services Amir Singh received Shakargarh in *jagir*, and Budh Singh, Kalar and Nirali, worth about a lakh of rupees. Previous to this the family *jagir* in Chach and Attock had been exchanged, at their request, for the *ilakas* of Sarch Talwan, Khotar and Kathunangal, worth Rs. 1,80,000.

Sardar Budh Singh was after this sent to the Jammu hills in command of two regiments of infantry and one of cavalry, and afterwards reduced the Thainawala country. He was in command of a portion of the Sikh army at the battle of Teri in 1823. Two battles were indeed fought at Teri. The Maharaja commanded in person on the left bank of the Kabul river, and he defeated the Yusafzai fanatics, losing however Phula Singh Akali and some good officers. On the right bank of the river was the main body of the Sikh army commanded by Hari Singh Nalwa, Jamadar Khushhal Singh, Sardar Budh Singh and others, and the opposing force of Afghans commanded by Muhammad Azim Khan, who was defeated with loss, and died of chagrin within the year.

In 1825 the Maharaja was in the Rambagh at Amritsar dangerously ill. His life was despaired of, and he had become wholly unconscious. Sardar Budh Singh saw that on the death of Ranjit Singh the country would again be divided into separate chiefships, and supposing the Maharaja to be dying, determined to make provision for himself. He went at night with a force to the fort of Gobindgarh and demanded admittance in the name of the Maharaja. The Jamadar of the gate, Daya Ram, would not admit him without orders. Budh Singh accordingly went back, and induced by large bribes the Keeper of the Seal to draw out an order for the fort to be given up to him; and to this the seal was affixed. Budh Singh returned

to the fort ; but the Jamadar was not to be deceived. He would not look at the order, and declared that so late at night he would not open the gates to the Maharaja himself. The Sardar had to retire discomfited ; and in the morning Imam-ud-din, the *Kiladar*, told the Maharaja, who had in some measure recovered, the whole affair. The result was that Budh Singh was given the Peshawar command, and sent into the Yusufzai country against Khalifa Sayad Ahmad, a fanatic who was preaching a *Jahad*, or holy war, against the Sikhs ; the Maharaja hoping that he would leave his bones in the Yusufzai hills and never return to disturb him.

Budh Singh crossed the Kabul river in advance of the main body and encamped at Akhora, where he threw up entrenchments ; but during the night he was attacked by the enemy, and only succeeded in beating them off with a loss of five hundred killed and wounded. Sardar Atar Singh, Sindhanwalia, was present on this occasion and displayed much gallantry. The next day the Sikh army moved on nine miles to Jangirah, where it was joined by the Dogra chiefs and the Atari Sardar with their troops, which, together with those of Sardar Budh Singh, amounted to some ten thousand men with twelve guns. Their entrenchments were soon surrounded by the large but undisciplined army of the Khalifa, composed of Kabulis, Yusufzais and Afghans. For some days the Sikhs remained in their entrenchments exposed to the incessant assaults of the enemy, till at length, the supplies and the patience of Budh Singh being exhausted, he led his men against the enemy, and after a severe fight defeated them with great slaughter. Sayad Ahmad took refuge in the Yusufzai hills ; and it was two years before he recovered his strength sufficiently to take the field again. After this success Sardar Budh Singh returned to Lahore, where he was received with all honour ; but a few months later, at the close of 1827, he died of cholera. The Maharaja wrote a letter to his family expressing his grief at the Sardar's death and his regret that so brave a man should have died in his bed like common mortals. Sardar Budh Singh was one of the bravest and most skilful of the Sikh Generals. At the time of his death there was a rumour that the Dogras had poisoned him ; but there is not the smallest foundation for the story.

Amir Singh died before his son in the same year ; but all the *jagirs*, amounting to upwards of six lakhs, were continued to Sardars Atar Singh, Lehna Singh, Basawa Singh and Shamsher Singh. Atar Singh succeeded his brother in the Darbar ; and his strength and courage were so great



that, after the death of Sardar Hari Singh Nalwa in 1837, he was considered the champion of the *Khalsaji*.

In the same year Atar Singh was sent to Peshawar with his contingent, and Lehna Singh to Shabkadar. They did good service, and were engaged in constant warfare with the wild tribes in the neighbourhood. Atar Singh obtained the title, as long as complimentary, of *Ujal didar, Nirmal budh, Sardar-i-ba-Wakar, Kasir-ul-iktadar, Sarwar-i-garoh-i-namdar, Ali taba, Shuja-ud-Daula* Sardar Atar Singh, *Shamsher-i-jang Bahadur*; and Sardar Lehna Singh the title of *Ujal didar, Nirmal budh, Sardar-i-ba Wakar* Sardar Lehna Singh, *Sindhanwaha, Bahadur*. The *jagirs* and power of the family continually increased till the death of Maharaja Kharak Singh; when though nominally in possession of land worth seven lakhs, their annual revenue was really between nine and ten.

At this time Atar Singh was the head of the family, both by repute and ability; Lehna Singh was a man of energy, but illiterate and debauched; Ajit Singh, his nephew, was brave enough, but headstrong and rash; whilst Shamsher Singh wasaverse to politics, and was absent at Peshawar with his troops.

When Prince Nao Nihal Singh was killed, by accident or design, the same day that his father died, two claimants appeared for the vacant throne. The first was Rani Chand Kaur, widow of Maharaja Kharak Singh; the second, Prince Sher Singh, a reputed son of Maharaja Ranjit Singh, a brave soldier and possessing some influence with the army. The claims of Chand Kaur were supported by the Sindhanwalia party, including Bhai Ram Singh, Sardar Tej Singh and his uncle Jamadar Khushhal Singh. Sher Singh was favoured by the Dogra party, at the head of which was Raja Dhian Singh, and his brothers Rajas Gulab Singh and Suchet Singh, with Misra (afterwards Raja) Lal Singh and others. Between the Sindhanwalia and the Dogra parties the greatest enmity existed. Both had possessed great power and influence during the latter years of Ranjit Singh's reign, and each looked with jealousy and suspicion upon its rival. But the ambition of the Sindhanwalias had been united with attachment to the reigning family and devotion to the State; that of the Dogra brothers had ever been selfish. There are perhaps no characters in history more repulsive than Rajas Gulab Singh and Dhian Singh. Their splendid talents and their undoubted bravery count as nothing in the presence of their atrocious cruelty, their avarice, their treachery and their unscrupulous ambition.



At the time of Prince Nao Nihal Singh's death, Atar Singh was at Hardwar and Lehna Singh and Ajit Singh in Kulu. On the news reaching them, Atar Singh and Ajit Singh both hastened to Lahore.

Rani Sahib Kaur, widow of Prince Nao Nihal Singh, was pregnant at the time of her husband's death; and Raja Dhian Singh, seeing that, in the temper of the Sikh people, it would be well to wait, agreed that Sher Singh should retire to his estates, leaving his son Partab Singh in the Darbar, professedly for eight months, till it was seen whether a son would be born to Sahib Kaur or to any other of the Ranis; in reality till he, Dhian Singh, should gain over the troops to the side of Sher Singh.

Early in January, Sher Singh, hearing that the army was well disposed towards him, and hoping to gain Lahore without the aid of Dhian Singh, whom he both hated and feared, appeared with his troops before the city. Raja Gulab Singh, however, determined that Sher Singh should not succeed without his brother's aid, joined the Sindhanwalias and prepared to defend the fort. The history of the siege of Lahore is too well known to be repeated here. For seven days the garrison held out bravely against the whole Sikh army, which lost in the assault a great number of men; and it was not till Raja Dhian Singh returned from Jammu that negotiations were opened, by which Sher Singh ascended the throne, and Rani Chand Kaur resigned her claim. Gulab Singh laughing in his sleeve at the success of his and his brother's plans, marched off to Jammu amidst the curses of the Sikh army, carrying with him a great part of the treasure, principally jewels, which Maharaja Ranjit Singh had stored in the fort, and which plunder, five years later, helped to purchase Kashmir.

Sardar Atar Singh then went as an agent of Rani Chand Kaur to the Governor-General's Agent at Ludhiana to try and induce him to support their party, but he was not successful; and Ajit Singh then tried his persuasive powers with equally bad success. He then travelled to Calcutta, but was not able to obtain audience of the Governor-General. The object of their absence was well understood at Lahore; and Sher Singh confiscated all the *jagirs* of the family, with the exception of those of Sardar Shamsher Singh, who had not joined in the intrigues of his relatives. He sent Budh Singh Mahra and Hukam Singh Malwai to Kulu, where Lehna Singh was in command, to bring him to Lahore with his nephew Kahar Singh; and on their arrival threw them into prison. The other members of the family, except Shamsher Singh, then crossed the Sutlej and took refuge at



Thanesar, in British territories. But the exile of the Sindhanwalias occasioned Maharaja Sher Singh as much anxiety as their presence. They carried on their intrigues at Lahore; and the army, which they had often led to battle, murmured at the severity with which they were treated. Sher Singh was accordingly ready to listen to the sinister advice of Bhai Ram Singh, who urged their recall; and in October 1842 Sardars Ajit Singh and Lehna Singh, who had been some time before released from confinement, returned to Lahore, and all their *jagirs* were restored to them. Atar Singh remained at Una in the Hoshiarpur district, in sanctuary with Bedi Bikram Singh. He had no faith in Maharaja Sher Singh or in the Jammu Rajas. Nor, to tell the truth, was it any love for these latter that induced Ajit Singh and Lehna Singh to return. They had, doubtless, a longing for their fat *jagirs*; but they had heard of the murder of Rani Chand Kaur, the head of their party and the reputed mistress of Ajit Singh, by Sher Singh and Dhian Singh; they heard that Rani Sahib Kaur had been delivered of a still-born son, and the Lahore bazars were whispering that it was not the interest of Sher Singh and Dhian Singh that the child should be born alive.

All at first went on smoothly. Vainly did Dhian Singh try to persuade the Sindhanwalias that his interest had procured their recall; they knew his hatred for them, and determined upon his fall. The plot of the Sindhanwalias was a bold one. They were for no half measures. Maharaja Sher Singh and his Minister Dhian Singh were to fall together; and the Sindhanwalias, having gratified their revenge, would wield the whole power of the State as guardians of the young Dalip Singh. Raja Dhian Singh had also a policy which was no less energetic. He desired to destroy Sher Singh and the Sindhanwalias, and secure for himself the Regency and, in the event of any accident happening to Dalip Singh, a probable throne for his son Hira Singh.

The Sindhanwalias persuaded the Maharaja that Dhian Singh had determined to destroy him, and that his safety could only be secured by the death of the Minister; that they, the Sindhanwalias, his relations and friends, were the only persons he could trust, and that they were ready to make away with the obnoxious Minister. Sher Singh believed this story, which was one half true, and signed a paper exonerating them from the guilt of Dhian Singh's murder, and arranged the manner of its execution. Some days later, Ajit Singh and Lehna Singh were to parade their troops

before the Maharaja for inspection, when Dhian Singh was to be directed to examine them, and the Sindhanwalias were to take this opportunity of putting him to death. The same night that this arrangement was made with the Maharaja, Lehna Singh and Ajit Singh paid a visit to Raja Dhian Singh. They told him that Sher Singh had determined, first on his destruction, and then on theirs, and called on him to assist in his overthrow. When Dhian Singh saw the paper that Sher Singh had signed, he agreed to the Sindhanwalias' proposal; and it was arranged between them that on the day of the inspection the victim to fall should be the Prince and not the Minister.

It thus appears that the Sindhanwalias were the originators of the conspiracy against Sher Singh. They themselves assert that Dhian Singh visited Ajit Singh and Lehna Singh and, telling them that the Maharaja had determined to destroy them, urged them to join in a plot against his life. But this story is in no way probable. Sher Singh desired to conciliate the Sindhanwalias, not to destroy them. He had but recently restored their *jagirs* and honours, and he looked to them, and to them alone, as his defence against the Jammu Rajas, Dhian Singh and Gulab Singh, whom he feared as much as he hated. The Sindhanwalias knew this well, and they would never have believed that the Maharaja was plotting against them.

The 15th September 1843, the day for the inspection of the Sindhanwalia troops, at length arrived. The Maharaja had gone to spend the day at a summer-house at Shah Balawal, half-way between Lahore and Shalimar, and thither Sardars Ajit Singh and Lehna Singh proceeded. They entered the presence fully armed; but this was not unusual. Sher Singh was in the small room of the house with but one or two attendants, and Diwan Dina Nath was reading State papers aloud to him. Ajit Singh paid his respects and, coming forward, presented for the Maharaja's inspection a double-barrelled gun which, he said, he had just purchased. Sher Singh, who was fond of fire-arms, stretched out his hand to take it, when Ajit Singh, who had kept the muzzle directed towards the Prince, fired both barrels, which had been loaded with a double charge, full in his breast.

The Maharaja had only time to cry "*Yih kya dagha hai?*" (What treachery is this?), when he fell back and expired. His attendants attacked the assassins; but they were few in number and were soon overpowered. Sardar Budh Singh Mokerian was killed on the spot, his cousin severely wounded, and several others were cut down by the Sindhanwalias.



AMRITSAR DISTRICT.

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Not far from Shah Balawal was the garden of Sardar Jwala Singh Padhanian. Here Prince Partab Singh, eldest son of the Maharaja, a handsome and intelligent boy was performing his devotions and distributing alms to Brahmans; for it was the first day of Asauj, and the monthly festival of *Sankrant*. To this garden Lehna Singh hurried with some troops. The Prince saw him approach with a drawn sword, and cried out, "Babaji, I will remain your servant" (*tumhara naukar main rahunga*). Lehna Singh answered, "Your father is killed," and ran the boy through with his sword. At the same time were killed Atar Singh Parohit, in attendance on the Prince, and several Brahmans.*

While this tragedy was being enacted in Jwala Singh's garden, Ajit Singh had cut off the Maharaja's head and, mounting his horse, had galloped off towards Lahore with three hundred followers. At the spot where is now the Badami Bagh, he met Raja Dhian Singh riding slowly towards Shah Balawal with Fateh Khan Tiwana and a few attendants. He told the Raja that all had gone off well, and requested him to ride back with him to Lahore. The Raja may have had suspicions, but it was useless then to show them; so he turned his horse's head towards the city. By the Roshni gate they entered the city, and on passing into the fort the gates were shut.

As they rode up the ascent Ajit Singh asked the Minister what arrangements he intended to make. He answered, "Dalip Singh shall be Maharaja, I *Wazir*, and the Sindhanwalias shall enjoy power." Again Ajit Singh asked the question; but the same answer was returned. In his extremity Dhian Singh would not promise the Wazarat to one of the hated Sindhanwalias. But he now saw from Ajit Singh's demeanour that his death was determined on, and he turned to address the Sardar, who cried out, "You are the murderer of the Rani Sahib," and fired at the Raja with his pistol. The attendants of Ajit Singh then cut him down with their swords, and threw his body into the pit of the gun foundry in the fort. Ahmad Khan Gheba, who was in attendance on Dhian Singh, was killed with him. Lehna Singh soon afterwards arrived, and the Sardars then wrote to Raja Suchet Singh the brother, and Raja Hira Singh, the son of the murdered Minister, requesting their presence at a consulta-

* The story of the assassination of Sher Singh and Partab Singh has been told in various ways. It is believed that the above version is the correct one. Eye-witnesses of the tragedy, who were questioned, were unanimous as to its truthfulness, and among these may be mentioned Diwan Ajodhya Prasad, who was with Maharaja Sher Singh at the time of his death and Ram Malawa Mal, *Vakil* of the Raja of Kapurthala, who was in the garden of Jwala Singh when Prince Partab Singh was murdered.

tion in the fort. The Rajas, however, were not to be entrapped, and soon the news of the murder got abroad. Raja Hira Singh, who has been himself accused of conspiracy against his father's life, now determined to avenge his death, and addressed the troops and, by extravagant promises, gained them over to his side; and by evening the army of forty thousand men had surrounded the fort which the Sindhanwalias had determined to defend to the last. These chiefs had proclaimed Dalip Singh King, and Lehna Singh Wazir; but they felt that their chance was lost, and but feebly defended the fort against the first attack of Hira Singh. When, however, the walls had been breached, and the enemy advanced to the assault, the Sindhanwalias fought with desperation; but they had but a few hundred men, and the works were carried, though with great loss. Ajit Singh tried to escape by letting himself over the walls by a rope; but he was seen by a soldier and, in spite of his lavish promises of reward if his life was spared, was shot dead. His head was cut off and taken to Hira Singh, who ordered his body to be quartered and exposed in different parts of the city. The soldier who slew him was made a Subadar. Lehna Singh, whose thigh had been broken by a shot from a *zambura* early in the day, was discovered hiding in a vault, and was also ruthlessly murdered. Dalip Singh was then proclaimed King, and Hira Singh Wazir. Thus ended the tragedy.

Raja Hira Singh, on obtaining power, confiscated all the *jagirs* of the Sindhanwalia family except those of Sardar Shamsher Singh, who was at Peshawar and had not joined in the conspiracy. He destroyed Raja Sansi, the family seat, ploughed up the ground on which their palace had stood, and hunted down all their friends and adherents. The surviving members of the family, with Sardar Atar Singh, fled across the Sutlej. It does not appear that Atar Singh was aware of the lengths to which his brother and nephew were prepared to go; yet Hira Singh believed him to be privy to the whole conspiracy and determined on his destruction. With this object, he forged letters from many of the chiefs and leaders of the army and sent them to Atar Singh, urging him to return to the Punjab, where he might recover his influence and destroy the Wazir. He also sent forged letters to Bawa Bir Singh, a Guru much respected by the Sikhs, begging him to use his influence to induce the Sardar to return. The Princes Kashmira Singh and Pashaura Singh were with Bawa Bir Singh at this time, and Hira Singh hoped to destroy his three enemies at one blow. Both Atar Singh and the Bawa were deceived; and the former crossed the Sutlej with



his followers, and joined the camp of the Bawa. The Sikh army would not hear of attacking the holy Guru, and Hira Singh had to use still further deceit. He assured the troops that Atar Singh had allied himself with the British who were even now ready to cross the Sutlej and seize the Punjab. That if the army marched against him he would probably return to the Cis-Sutlej States without offering any resistance. The troops, thus cajoled, marched from Lahore, and all turned out as Hira Singh had hoped. By trickery a tumult was excited, and before the Sikh soldiers knew what they were about they were engaged in a regular fight with the Sindhanwalia force; the camp of the Bawa was stormed, and he was killed by a cannon-shot in the action. Kashmira Singh was killed, fighting gallantly, and Atar Singh was shot by Sardar Gulab Singh Calcuttia. His death took place in May 1844.

Seven months later, Hira Singh himself was assassinated, and Sardar Jawahir Singh, the drunken brother of Rani Jindan, who succeeded him as Wazir, recalled the Sindhanwalias from exile and promised to restore all their *jagirs*. In March 1845 they received out of the old estate *jagirs* to the value of Rs. 1,76,000. Sardar Shamsher Singh was recalled from Peshawar and placed in command of a brigade of regular troops, which he commanded throughout the Sutlej campaign of 1845-46. He was appointed a member of the Council of Regency in December 1846. In February 1848 the Resident at Lahore deputed Shamsher Singh to the districts about Amritsar known as the Manjha, placing under him the civil and military establishments. This tract of country was infested by robbers, chiefly disbanded soldiers; and the Sardar, acting with considerable energy, restored it to some degree of quiet. Previous to this he had served for a short time at Bannu with Lieutenant Edwardes, in command of the Mariwala and Mokal levies. When Diwan Mul Raj of Multan tendered his resignation, the post of *Nazim*, or Governor, was offered to Samsher Singh. He did not, however, seem willing to accept it, and it was finally given to Sardar Kahan Singh Man. Shamsher Singh was on the outbreak of the rebellion sent down to Multan in command of one division of the Sikh army. He warned Major Edwardes of the disaffected state of the troops, and did his best to keep them faithful. Their mutiny at length took him by surprise; and he was carried off by Raja Sher Singh Atariwala into Multan, where before the whole Darbar he refused to join the rebel cause, and declared that he only owed obedience to the Maharaja. The next morning, the 15th September 1848, he succeeded in making his escape on foot from Sher Singh's camp, leaving behind him all his tents and elephants.



On the road he was intercepted by two of the rebels, but he shot one, and the other took to flight. After his return from Multan he rendered good assistance to General Wheeler, in furnishing information of the movements of Ram Singh, son of Shama, *Wazir* of Nurpur, who was in open rebellion.

After annexation the personal *jagirs* of Sardar Shamsher Singh, amounting to Rs. 40,250 per annum, were upheld for life; one quarter descending to his male issue in perpetuity. His service *jagir* of Rs. 30,250 was resumed. In 1857, during the Mutiny, Shamsher Singh raised a troop of one hundred and twenty-five horsemen, which formed part of Hodson's Horse, now the 9th and 10th Bengal Cavalry. In February 1862 he was made Magistrate in his own *jagir*. About the same time the portion of his *jagir* to descend in perpetuity was raised from one-quarter to two-thirds. Sardar Shamsher Singh had no children of his own, but adopted Bakhshish Singh, the second son of his first cousin Thakur Singh.

On the death of Sardar Atar Singh, his son Kahar Singh became the head of the family. But this Sardar was a man of no energy or ability. Most extravagant in his habits, he was surrounded by men who grew rich upon his follies. At Multan, where he served with his cousin, he remained faithful to Government, following his cousin's example; for he had no will of his own. On annexation his personal *jagir* of Rs. 26,000 was maintained to him, one-fourth of it to descend to his male issue. This *jagir* lapsed on the death of Kahar Singh, which took place in February 1864. His life had been much shortened by his intemperate habits. The *jagir* had been for a time in the hands of his creditors, and he himself had to pass through the Insolvency Court.

The two sons of Lehna Singh, Partab Singh and Thakur Singh, also were confirmed in their personal *jagirs*. They were too young to be concerned in the rebellion of 1848-49. Partab Singh died in 1853 without issue, and his *jagir* of Rs. 10,565 lapsed to Government. Thakur Singh possessed an estate of Rs. 5,565, of which one-fourth was in perpetuity. Sardar Ranjodh Singh, son of Sardar Basawa Singh, was a man of no character. He had a *jagir* of Rs. 15,840, of which one-third, Rs. 5,280, was in perpetuity. He died in June 1864, leaving one son, Randhir Singh. Sardar Shamsher Singh resided at Raja Sansi, about five miles north of Amritsar. He died in 1871, and was succeeded by his adopted son, Sardar Bakhshish Singh, who, being at this time a minor, was made a Ward of the District Court. His father, Thakur Singh, was appointed Manager and was



invested with Magisterial powers within the limits of Raja Sansi. These powers were withdrawn in 1877.

In 1884 Sardar Bakhshish Singh attained his majority. In 1875 he married a daughter of Sardar Mahtab Singh Majithia, since dead; and in 1884 took as his second wife a cousin of the Raja of Faridkot. The Secretary of State sanctioned in 1866 the continuance in perpetuity of the *jagirs* awarded by Lord Canning to Sardars Shamsher Singh, Tej Singh and Bhagwan Singh. Shamsher Singh's *jagir* consisted of twenty-nine villages, the revenues of which amounted to Rs. 30,274, or, more properly speaking, Rs. 38,613, as the Sardar was allowed to collect the revenues in kind. Two-thirds of the *jagir* descended to Bakhshish Singh, the revenues amounting to Rs. 21,300. In addition, the Sardar received Rs. 6,000 per annum on account of water-advantage rate, and was owner of the following lands:—1,395 *ghumaos* at Raja Sansi, 558 *ghumaos* at Tala Nangal and 100 *ghumaos* at Dadupur, besides gardens and buildings at Lahore, Gurdaspur, Sialkot, Batala and Tarn Taran. In 1889 Sardar Bakhshish Singh was invested with the powers of a Magistrate. He was a Member of the Ajnala Local Board, and a Provincial Darbari. His title of Sardar was hereditary. He died in 1907 and was succeeded as representative head of the Sindhanwalias and in all his lands and *jagirs* by his only son Raghbir Singh, who is married to a daughter of the late Maharaja of Bharatpur in Rajputana. Sardar Raghbir Singh has been accepted as a Provincial Darbari and his right to the title of Sardar has been recognised. He owns 40,392 *kanals* of land in the districts of Amritsar, Lahore and Sialkot in addition to his perpetual *jagir*, now worth Rs. 28,597.

Sardar Thakur Singh, son of Lehna Singh, was appointed an Extra Assistant Commissioner in 1865, and, as already stated, became manager of the estate of Bakhshish Singh on Shamsher Singh's death in 1871. In 1877 he rejoined the Punjab Commission, but was in perpetual monetary difficulties. He visited England in 1885, and remained nine months as the guest of the Maharaja Dalip Singh. In 1886, shortly after his return to India, he removed with his three sons, Gurbachan Singh, Narendra Singh and Gurdit Singh, to Pondicherry, where he died in December 1887. On his quitting the Punjab his *jagir* was resumed and his land at Raja Sansi was sold to defray his debts. His sons were allowed to return to British India a few years later, and were granted small political pensions. The eldest, Gurbachan Singh, had been appointed a Statutory Civilian and, at the time



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

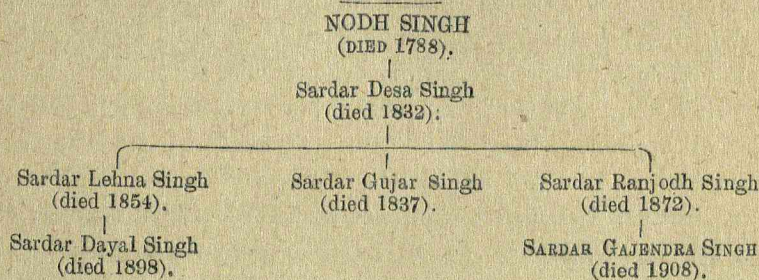
Kahan Singh, son of Gurmukh Singh, was on account of his handsome appearance and love of fine raiment nicknamed "Banka", or fashionable, by Maharaja Ranjit Singh. He was murdered while serving at Bannu by some treacherous servants. His son Basant Singh was a child of seven years at the time of his father's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

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

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



THE LATE SARDAR GAJENDRA SINGH MAJITHIA.



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

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



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

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



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

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

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

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



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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

At the close of the Sutlej campaign, Sardar Ranjodh Singh, who had been most averse to peace, was sent with an English officer to induce the Governor of the Kangra fort to submit. His exertions to effect this object were not great; and there is every reason to believe that, through his instigation, the garrison held out longer than it would otherwise have done. He was then appointed Judge of Lahore; but in this post he did not give any satisfaction. When the dispute with his brother was finally adjusted, some guns, which should have been returned to Lehna Singh, were concealed by Ranjodh Singh in a house at Amritsar. He denied their concealment; but a forcible search being made a large mortar, two 24-pound howitzers and a 6-pounder were found. His conduct on this occasion induced the Darbar, on the recommendation of the Resident, to remove him from the Judgeship, in which he was succeeded by Sardar Kahan Singh Man. The next year, 1848, soon after the outbreak at Multan, he was detected in a treasonable correspondence with Mul Raj and was placed in confinement, only being released at the close of the war.

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

* A gold coin, then worth five rupees.



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

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

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

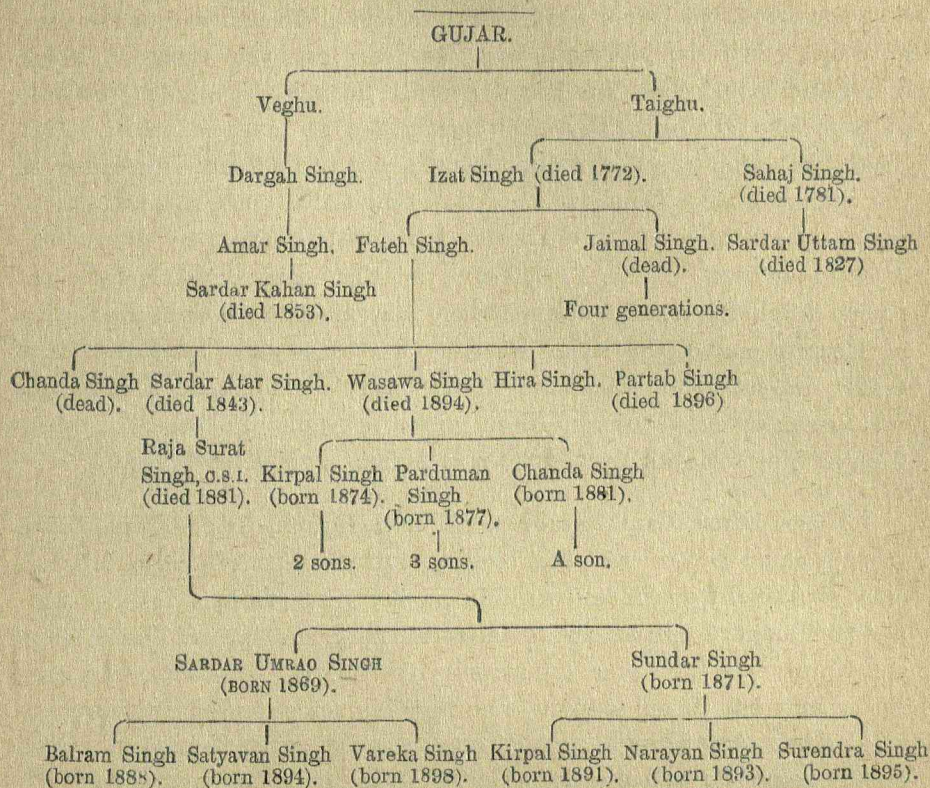
Sardar Lehna Singh left one son, Sardar Dayal Singh, a man of good education, well versed in English, Persian and Hindi. He was a rich man and acquired a large amount of landed and house property. He enjoyed a perpetual *jagir* of Rs. 6,000 and Rs. 5,200 from "Dharamarth," Rs. 1,200 of which was for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

CHIEFS AND FAMILIES OF NOTE.

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

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

SARDAR UMRAO SINGH MAJITHIA.



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



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

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

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



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

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



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

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



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

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

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



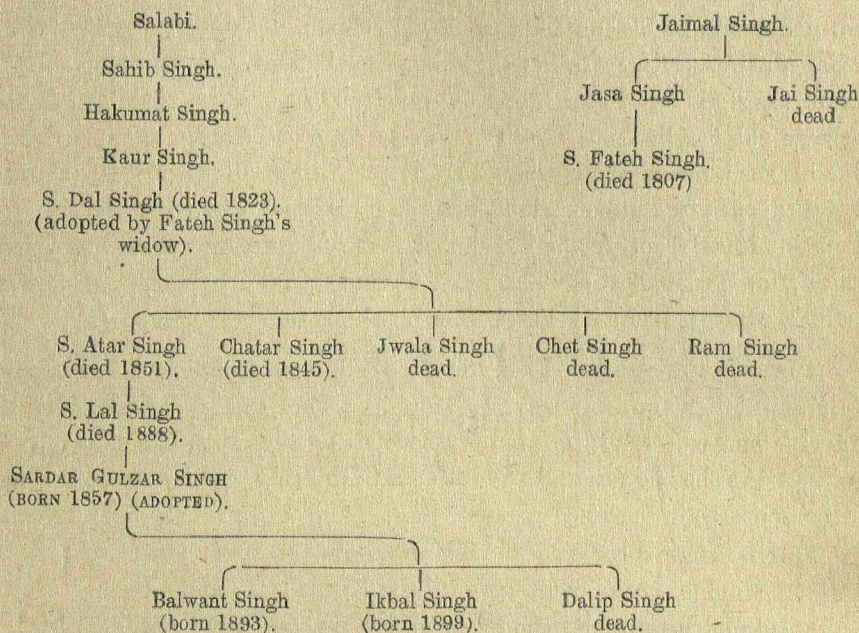
Lahore in November 1905. Of their sons the eldest, Balram Singh, is aide-de-camp to H. H. the Maharaja of Kashmir, and the two younger ones attend the Aitchison College as day scholars. Sundar Singh was married in 1887 to the daughter of Sardar Bishan Singh of Kandaula in the Ludhiana district, maternal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

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

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



SARDAR GULZAR SINGH KALIANWALA.



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



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

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

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

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



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

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

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



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

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

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

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



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

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

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



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

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

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

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

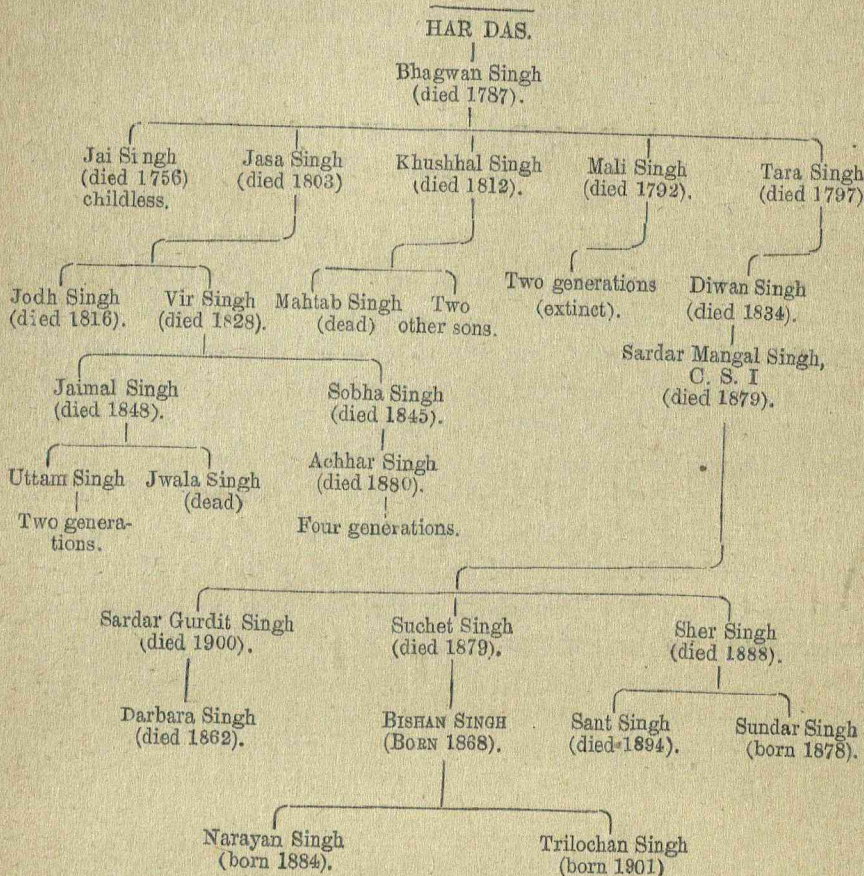


his son Lal Singh and his male heirs in perpetuity. The *jagir* of Sardar Lal Singh worth Rs. 3,600 being a recent grant of 1848, was resumed; but he was assigned a cash allowance of Rs. 4,800 from the *jagir* of his father, with whom he was at feud.

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

CHIEFS AND FAMILIES OF NOTE.

BISHAN SINGH RAMGARHIA.



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

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



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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

Vir Singh and Mahtab Singh were soon released, and were placed under Sardar Lehna Singh Majithia ; and at the intercession of Sardar Nihal Singh Atariwala a *jagir* of Rs. 35,000 was settled on the family. Diwan Singh for some time refused to accept his share of Rs. 6,000 at Dharamkot, and remained a prisoner ; but at length pretended to acquiesce. On regaining his freedom, however, he fled to Patiala, where he was at first well received ; but after a year was compelled to leave, and he then wandered about for some time till he thought it best to submit, and, returning to Lahore, he accepted a command of seven hundred men in the expedition then fitting out for Kashmir. After this we hear little of him beyond that he remained in charge of Baramula, a difficult hill-post on the road to Srinagar, till his death in 1834. Vir Singh had died six years before in 1828, when two-thirds of his *jagir* were resumed.

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



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

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

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

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

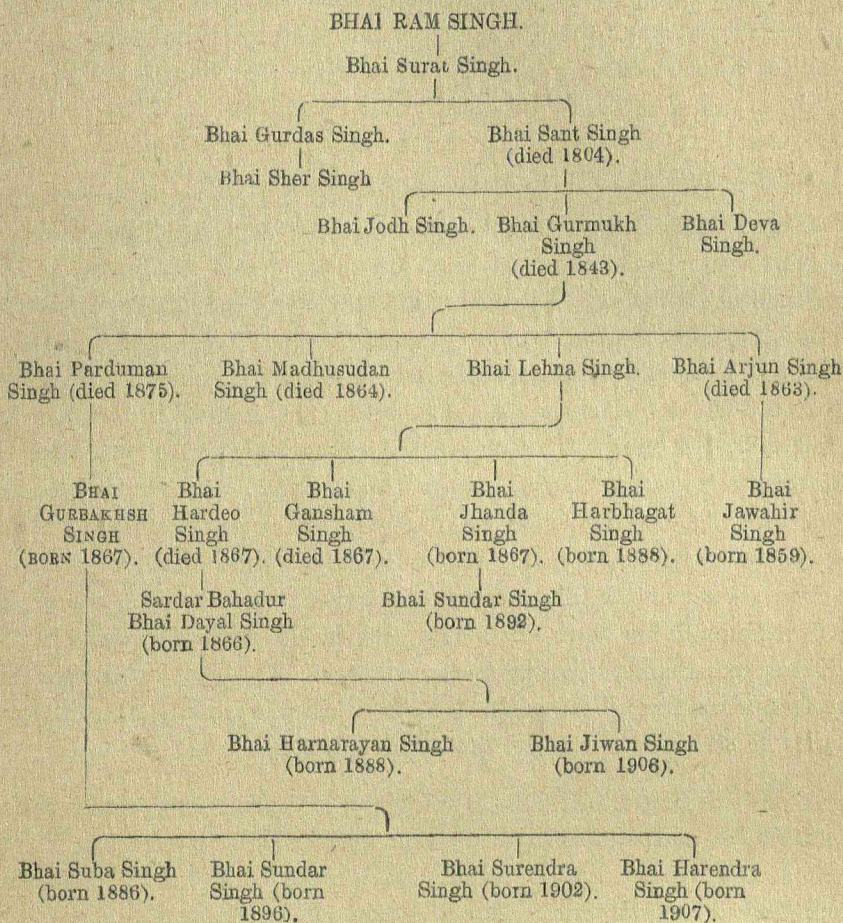
Sardar Mangal Singh was a man of education and liberal ideas. It was in a great measure owing to his influence and example that the cause of female education was so widely and systematically taken up in the city of Amritsar.



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

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

BHAI GURBAKHSH SINGH



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



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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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



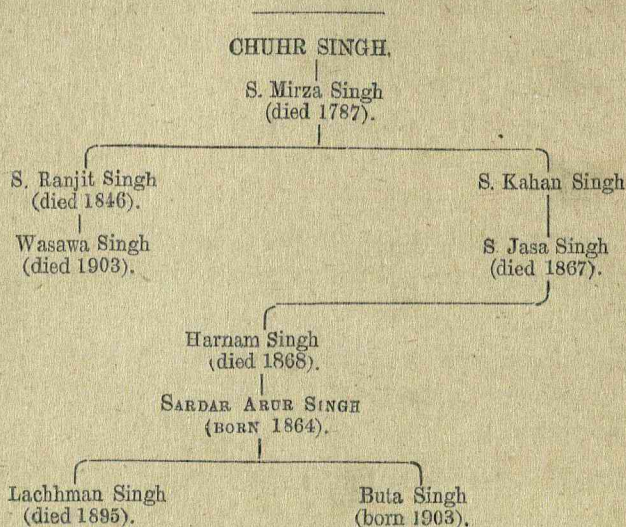
the administration of the *jagir* granted by Government for this purpose. The Bhai went to England in 1897, and in 1900 was called to the Bar. His eldest son, Suba Singh, married a grand-daughter of Sardar Jhanda Singh of Butala in the Gujranwala district.

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

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

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

SARDAR ARUR SINGH NAUSHAHRIA.



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

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



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

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

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

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



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

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



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

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

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



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

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

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



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

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

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



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

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

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



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

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

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



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

His two sons had died in their father's lifetime, and the family *jagir* passed to his grandson Thakur Harkishan Singh, son of Bansi Lal, who is a Provincial Darbari and the representative of this branch of the family. He resides at Kishankot, of which place he is an Honorary Magistrate. His brother Thakur Mahan Chand, after completing his education at the Aitchison College, was appointed an Honorary Magistrate in 1892, an Honorary Extra Assistant Commissioner in 1902 and a Member of the Punjab Legislative Council in 1906. He is a Provincial Darbari and was invited to the Delhi Coronation Darbar as an official guest, and received the Darbar Medal. He owns about 4,300 *bighas* of land in Amritsar district as well as squares in Lyallpur and resides at Amritsar, of which place he is Honorary Sub-Registrar. Balram, Raja Sir Sahib Dayal's second son, had no issue and consequently adopted his cousin, Partab Chand, son of Dina Nath. Partab Chand died in 1902 and his son Prem Chand has succeeded to Balram's estate, comprising about 800 *bighas* of land, as well as other property, in the Amritsar district.

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

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



British Government he was appointed Tahsildar of Pind Dadan Khan, but retired in 1854 and settled at Amritsar, where in 1862 he was appointed an Honorary Magistrate. He died at Amritsar in 1873. Sardar Bahadur Lachhmi Sahai, his elder son, a retired Extra Assistant Commissioner, may be regarded as the leading member of the family. He was made a Sardar Bahadur in 1894 and is a Provincial Darbari. The family property was divided between him and his brother Bhagat Ram, a *muafi* of 100 *bighas* in tahsil Pind Dadan Khan being included in the former's share. He also obtained six squares of land in the Lyallpur district and is *lambardar* of Chak No. 63, which has been called after him Garh Lachhmi Sahai. He was invited to the Delhi Coronation Darbar as an official guest and received the Darbar Medal. His elder son, Devi Sahai, was in the service of the Kashmir State, but has now left it. His younger son, Jwala Sahai, B.A., is now an Extra Judicial Assistant Commissioner and has been working as a District Judge for some years. Bhagat Ram, Gyan Chand's second son, has retired from the service of the Kashmir State, in which he was employed for many years.

Shankar Nath first received an appointment in the Amritsar Mint, and was then made Assistant in Hazara district. During the rebellion of 1848-49, he, like all his brothers, did good service, and preserved a semblance of order about Batala, Dinanagar and Pathankot. He died in 1837 at Benares, where he had been residing for some years. His sons were, on his death, granted pensions of Rs. 100 per annum each.

Sardar Harcharan Das began public life as an Assistant in the Customs Department ; but during the *Wazirat* of Raja Hira Singh he was made Commandant of seven hundred horse in the Mul Rajia Dera. In 1848 he was appointed by the Darbar *Adalati* or Judge of Lahore, with the honorary title of *Rukn-ud-Daula*. On annexation he held Rs. 10,000, which was confirmed to him while holding the office of Extra Assistant Commissioner, which had been conferred on him in place of the Judgeship. The Sardar resigned in 1852, and his *jagir* was reduced to Rs. 3,993. He lived at Amritsar, between which city and Lahore he, at his own expense, built a handsome *sarai*. The family have always been known for benevolence and liberality, which is testified to by the many works of public utility and convenience which have been constructed at their expense in many parts of the Punjab. Besides those already mentioned, the *sarai* near the Rambagh gate of Amritsar was

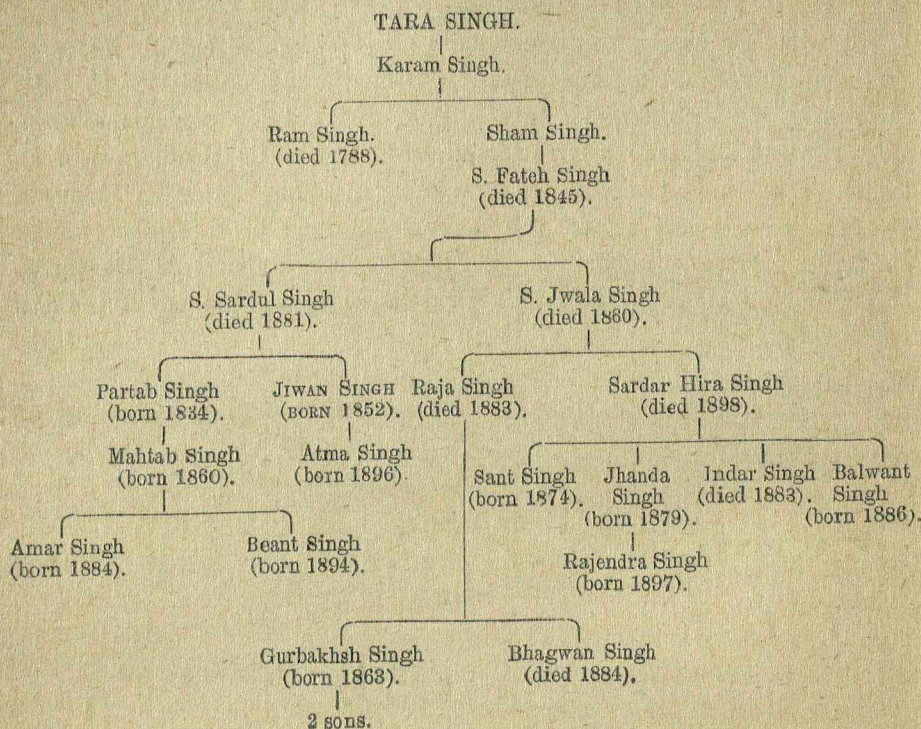


built by Raja Rallia Ram; also a *sarai* and temple by the Nagrahwai ferry on the Beas, and a masonry tank in the city of Amritsar.

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

CHIEFS AND FAMILIES OF NOTE

JIWAN SINGH MAN.



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



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

Sardar Fateh Singh had been early introduced to Ranjit Singh by his father; and when Prince Kharak Singh was a few years old, Fateh Singh was appointed especially for his service. The Sardar served in the Kangra campaign of 1809; at Daska, where he was wounded in the shoulder; at Chunian, where he was wounded in his hand; and at Sahiwal, where, after the capture of the town from Fateh Khan, he was appointed Commandant, and where he remained for a year. In 1811 he received from Kharak Singh, from his personal estates, a *jagir* worth Rs. 1,00,000, subject to the service of three hundred horse. Other *Jagirdars*, whose contingents aggregated seven hundred men, were also placed under his command, and he was sent to Jammu to reduce some insurgents to order; and after this, he was sent with other Sardars to Kulu and Kangra. He fought at the battle of Attock; and in the miserable Kashmir expedition of 1814, he, with Diwan Jiwan Mal, accompanied the detachment of Ram Dayal on the part of Prince Kharak Singh. Soon after this Sardar Fateh Singh was again sent to Jammu to put down an insurrection. In this he was successful, and brought in all the ringleaders to Lahore. But Bhai Ram Singh, the *Mukhtar* or confidential agent of Prince Kharak Singh, who hated Fateh Singh on account of his power and influence, concocted a plot to destroy his reputation.

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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



AMRITSAR DISTRICT.

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

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

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

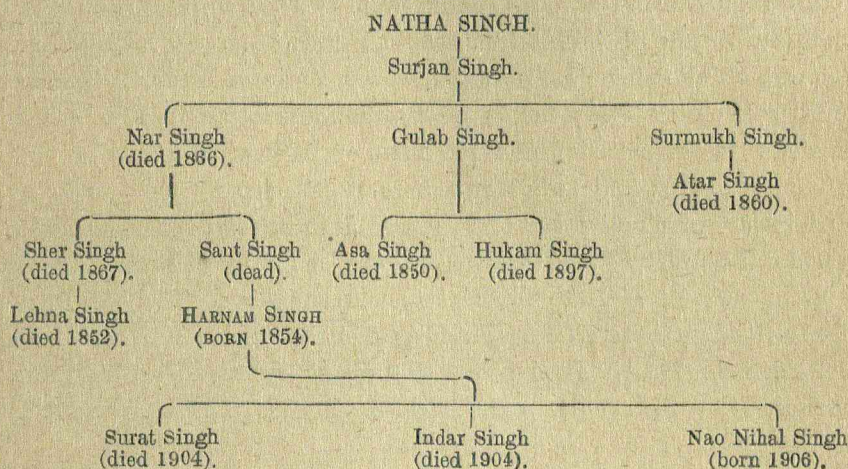


which was founded by their father. Jiwan Singh is now regarded as the representative of the family. He is a *lambardar* of Mananwala, a member of the Local and District Boards, an Honorary Magistrate and a Divisional Darbari. He holds by inheritance and purchase about 5,800 kanals of land in Amritsar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

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

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

SARDAR HARNAM SINGH AIMAWALA.



About the year 1788 Natha Singh, an Upal Jat, left his home at Lakarki, in the Gurdaspur district, and, coming to Amritsar, rebuilt a ruined village to which, in defiance of the rights of the late inhabitants, he gave the name of Aima, signifying land held in proprietary right. His son Surjan Singh inherited not only this village, but the *jagirs* of his uncle Dal Singh, who had been slain in a quarrel with Sardar Sewa Singh Aulakhwala. These estates were of considerable size, comprising many villages in the Daska, Pasrur and Ajnala *parganas*.

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

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

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



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

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

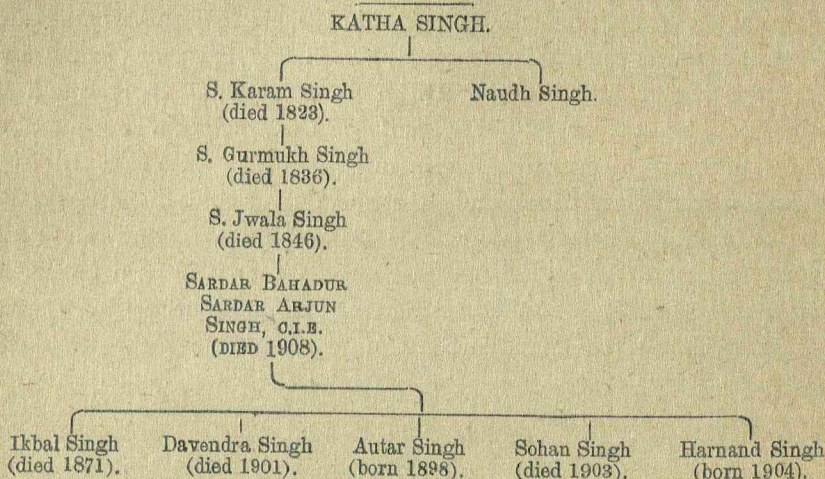
During the Sutlej campaign, Nar Singh served under Sardar Ranjodh Singh Majithia. He remained faithful to his Government during the Multan rebellion, as did his contingent of sowars, and was sent to Pind Dadan Khan under the orders of Misra Ballia Ram, Superintendent of the Salt Mines. He returned to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

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



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

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



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



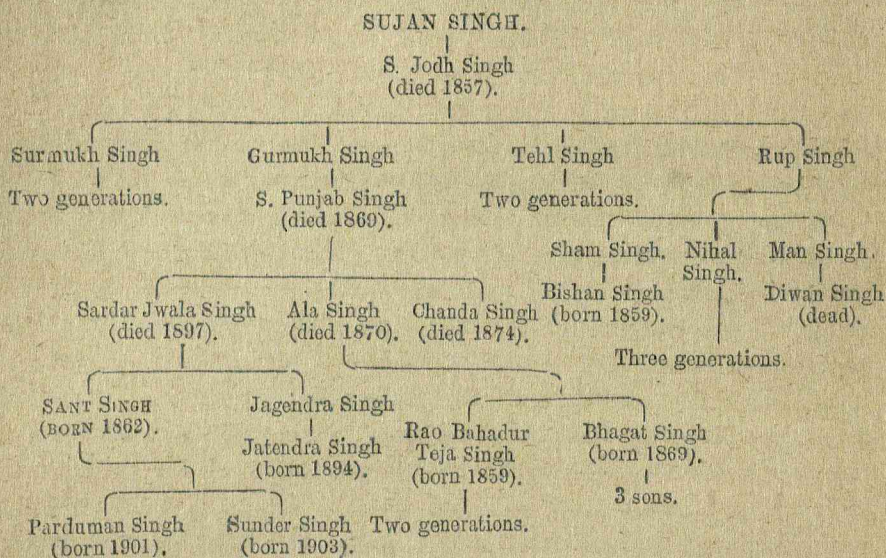
died the following day; and his loss was much felt both by the Maharaja and the army, in which he held command of the Gurkha battalion. His only surviving son, Gurmukh Singh, succeeded to the whole *jagir*. This young man had already for some years served under his father, and had fought in the battle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

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

The title of Sardar is hereditary in the family.



SANT SINGH, RASULPURIA.



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



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

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



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

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

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



AMRITSAR DISTRICT.

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SARDAR THAKUR SINGH, BHANGI.

HARI SINGH.

Jhanda Singh
(died 1774).Ganda Singh.
Amar Singh
(dead).Navid Singh.
Desa Singh.
(died 1782).Gulab Singh.
(died 1800).

Karam Singh.

Gurdit Singh,

Jasa Singh,

Mul Singh
(dead).Ganda Singh
(dead).S. Ajit Singh
(dead).Fateh Singh
(dead).Jaimal Singh
(dead).Wasawa Singh
(born 1842).SARDAR THAKUR
SINGH
(BORN 1849).Harnam Singh
(born 1873).Hakim Singh
(born 1855).Hardit Singh
(born 1886).Gurbakhsh Singh
(born 1902).Sheo Deo
Singh
(born 1904).

NATHA.

Garya Singh
(died 1838).Gujar Singh
(died 1788).Sihal Singh
(died 1781).Ala Singh
(became a Faqir).Chet Singh
(died 1803).Ram Singh
(died 1888).

Sukha Singh

Sahib Singh
(died 1811).Fateh Singh
(died 1832).Gulab Singh
(died 1832).Jaimal Singh
(died 1871).Partab Singh
(died 1878).Mahtab Singh
(died 1881).Hira Singh
(died 1873).Chanda Singh
(died 1881).Jwala Singh
(died 1894).Buta Singh
(born 1867).Mula Singh
(born 1875).

Dula Singh.

Ujagar Singh
(born 1903).Mihan Singh
(died 1888).Hira Singh
(died 1888).Budh Singh
(born 1868).Jaswant Singh
(died 1900).Teja Singh
(born 1881).Janmeja Singh
(born 1884).Mota Singh
(born 1879).Natha Singh
(died 1901).Antar Singh
(born 1931).

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Paikar i-Azhdahae Atishbar. پیکیوی ازدهائی آتشبار

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



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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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



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

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



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

Sahib Singh now began to lose the energy which had so much distinguished him, and gave himself up to drunkenness and debauchery. He quarrelled with Sardar Nihal Singh Atariwala, and with Mohkam Chand, his Diwan, afterwards so celebrated, who both went over to Ranjit Singh. In 1806 he accompanied the Lahore chief on the Patiala campaign, and at its close returned to Gujrat. In 1810 Ranjit Singh determined to take possession of Sahib Singh's country and sent for that purpose Hukam Singh Atariwala and Sewa Singh. Sahib Singh, seeing resistance hopeless, fled from Gujrat with fifty horsemen and took refuge in the fort of Deva Butala, and his whole *jagirs* were seized, an estate of Rs. 25,000 being granted to Gulab Singh who had intrigued against his father. In 1810, when the Maharaja was engaged in the siege of Multan, Mai Lachhmi, mother of Sahib Singh, proceeded thither, and interceded for her son with such effect that the *ilaka* of Bajwant, worth a lakh of rupees, was released in his favour. This he held till his death, which took place the next year, when Ranjit Singh took two of his widows, Daya Kaur and Ratan Kaur, into his *zanana*, marrying them by *chadar daldna*. Daya Kaur, daughter of Diwan Singh Wirk, was the reputed mother of Pashaura Singh and Kashmira Singh; Ratan Kaur the reputed mother of Multana Singh. Sardar Fateh Singh Gujratia, on the death of his brother and the resumption of the *jagir*, went to Kapurthala, where he remained in the service of the Ahluwalia chief for two years till, on

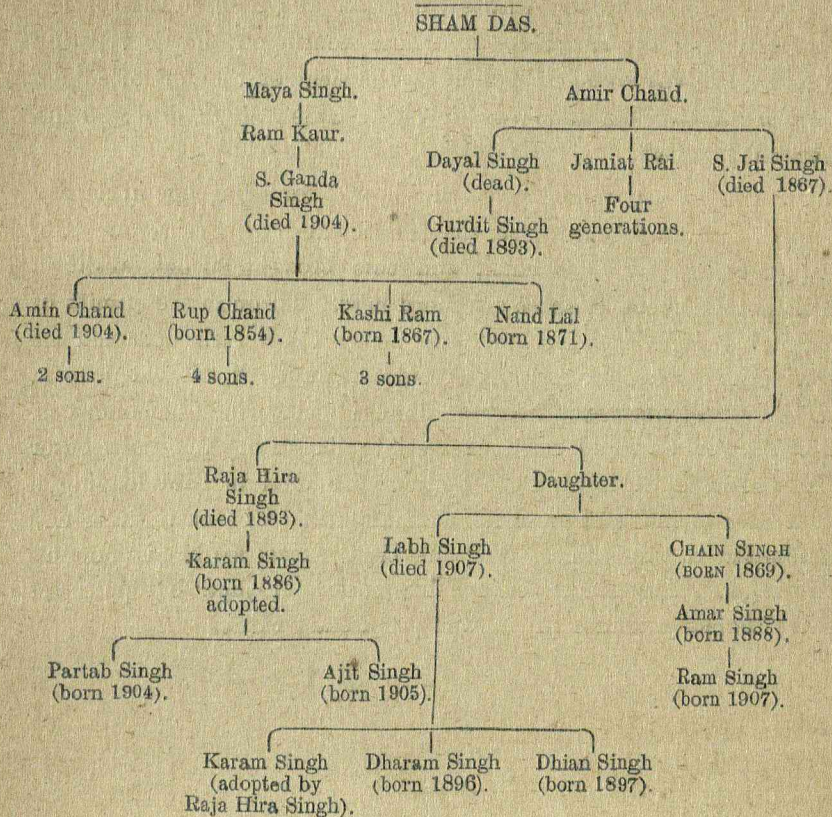


the death of his mother Mai Lachhmi, he received a grant of Rangarh and some other villages in the Amritsar district, and entered the service of Sardar Sham Singh Atariwala in whose contingent he served for many years. He was killed in Bannu at the siege of the fort of Malik Dilasa Khan. About the same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

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



SARDAR CHAIN SINGH OF HIRAPUR.



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



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

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



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

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

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

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



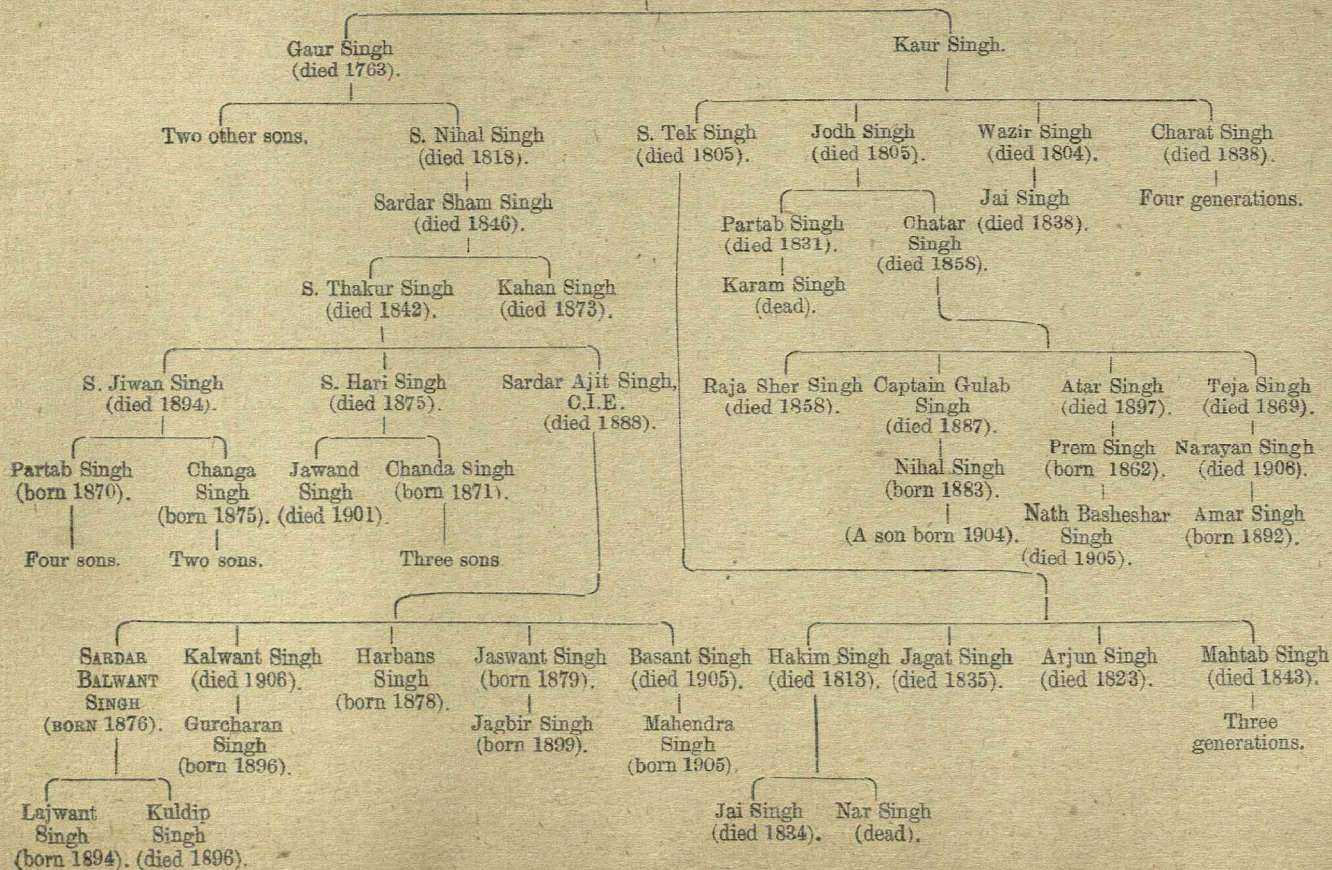
SARDAR BALWANT SINGH ATARIWALA.

KAHAN CHAND.

CSL

AMRITSAR DISTRICT.

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

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

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

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



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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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



The marriage of his daughter Nanki to Prince Nao Nihal Singh, to whom she had been betrothed in 1831, took place at Amritsar on the 7th March 1837. Sir Henry Fane, Commander-in-Chief, was present, and the ceremony was conducted with the greatest splendour. The bride brought a dowry to the Prince of eleven elephants, one hundred horses, one hundred camels, with a very large amount both of money and jewels. The wedding is said to have cost the Atari Sardar fifteen lakhs of rupees. Two months afterwards the news came of Sardar Hari Singh Nalwa's defeat and death; and Sham Singh had to march to Peshawar with his troops, and he remained at that station for two years, till the death of Ranjit Singh. After this event, Sham Singh, although constantly engaged in military duties, did not meddle with politics. He was in charge of the troops which, in May 1841, escorted the family of Shah Shuja to Peshawar; afterwards he was sent to Hazara to collect the revenue. He compelled that turbulent chief Painsa 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 Sohraon, 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 Shekora, 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

CHIEFS AND FAMILIES OF NOTE.

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 Yusafzai 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 Chichawatni, 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 Mul 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, Kalianwala 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.



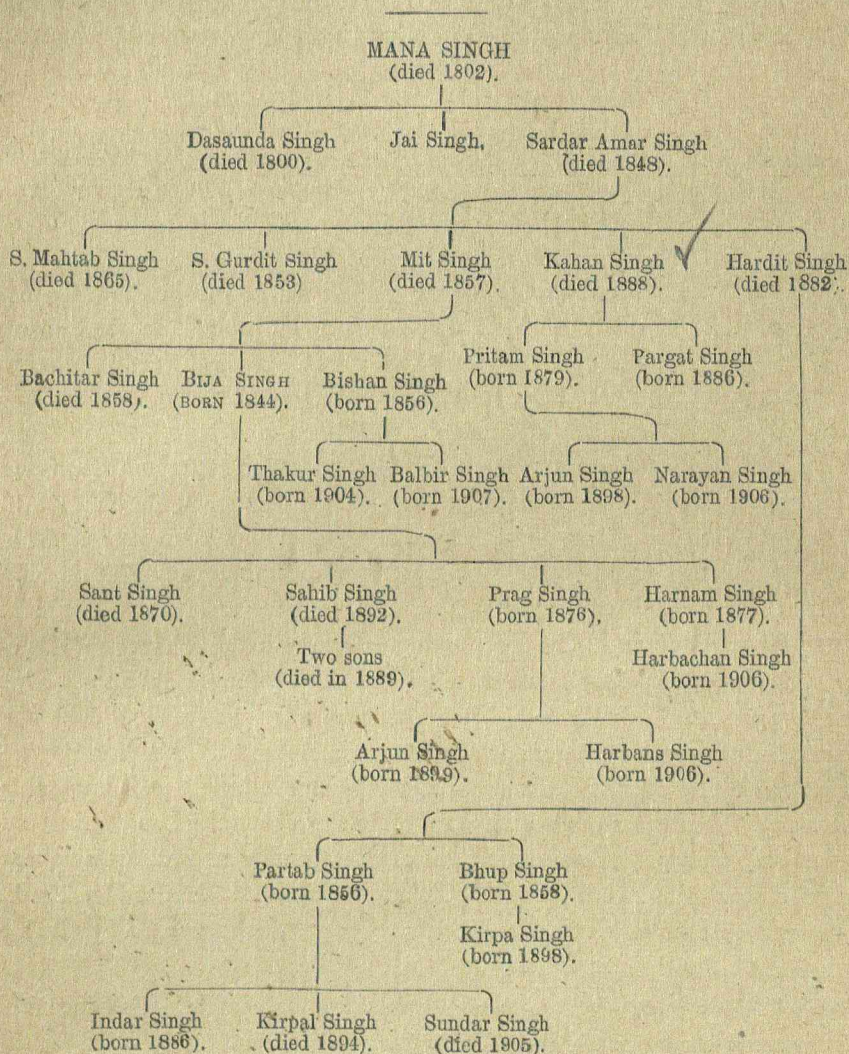
His father Sardar Chatar Singh had died early in the same year at Calcutta. Of Sardar Chatar Singh's four sons Atar Singh elected to live at Rai Bareilly in the North-West Provinces, and gradually severed his connection with the Punjab. He died in 1897 and has been succeeded by his son Prem Singh, whose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

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 Bhangsi. 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 1818, 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

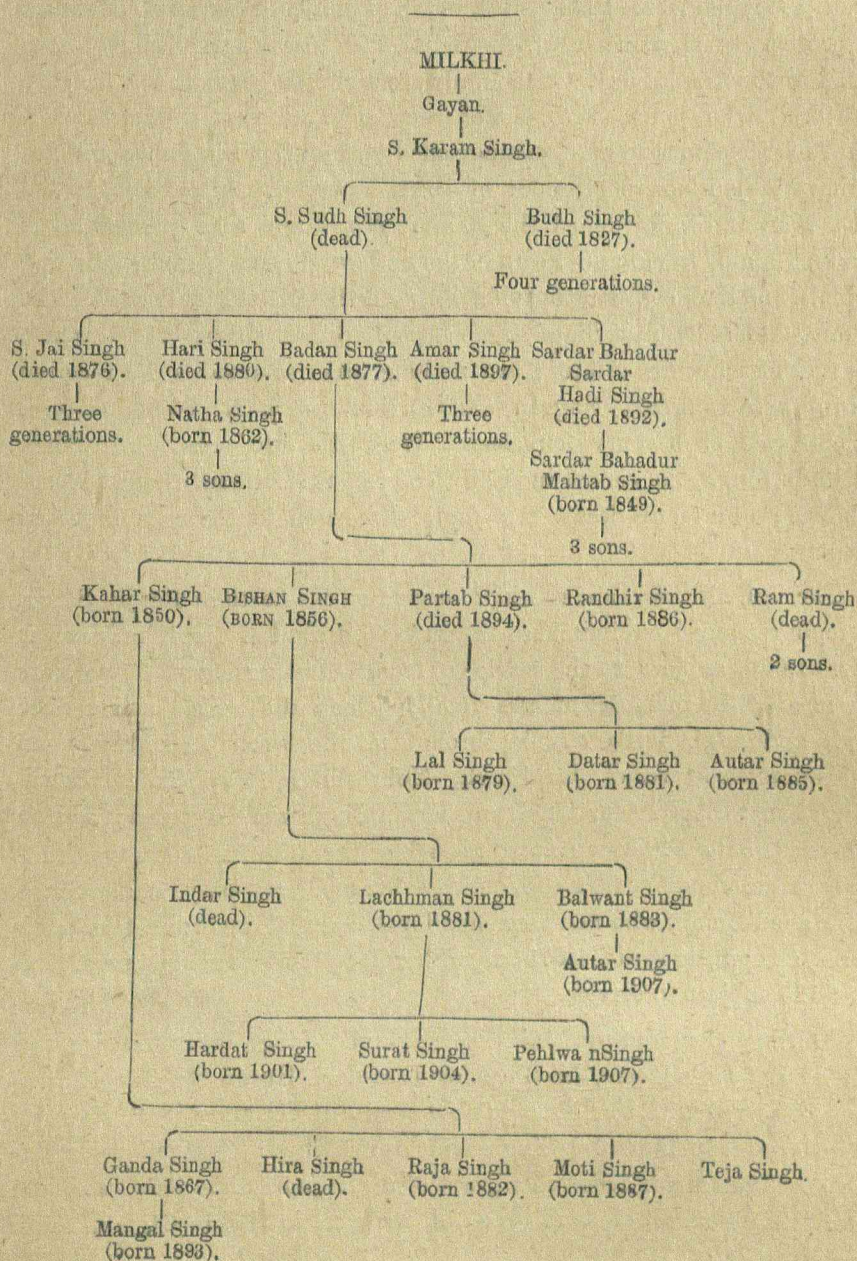


place he was in 1862 created an Honorary Magistrate. He was a great sportsman, and spent a large part of his time at Kapurthala with the Ahluwalia Raja, with whom he was very intimate. His only daughter was married to Sardar Bakhshish Singh Sindhanwalia. She died childless in 1889. Of Sardar Mit Singh's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

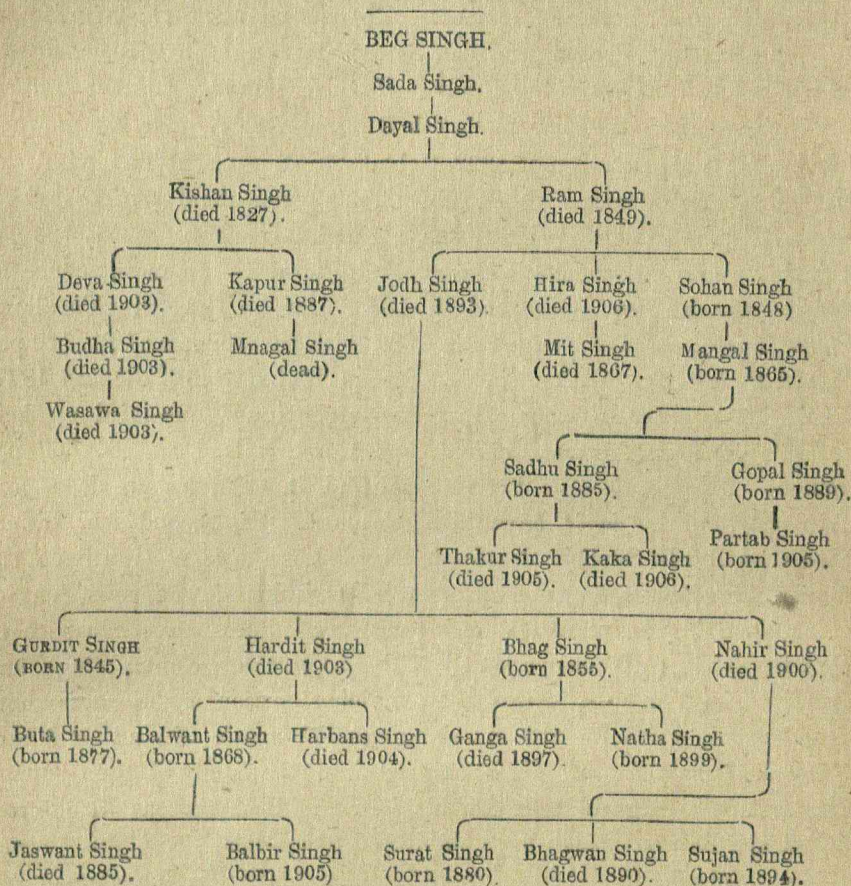


Hardit Singh served as Risaldar-Major, with the title of Sardar Bahadur, in the 9th Bengal Lancers. He became a Provincial Darbari in succession to his deceased brother Sardar Jai Singh in 1876, and was recognised as the head of the family. He died in 1892. His son Mahtab Singh was a Risaldar-Major in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

CHIEFS AND FAMILIES OF NOTE.

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



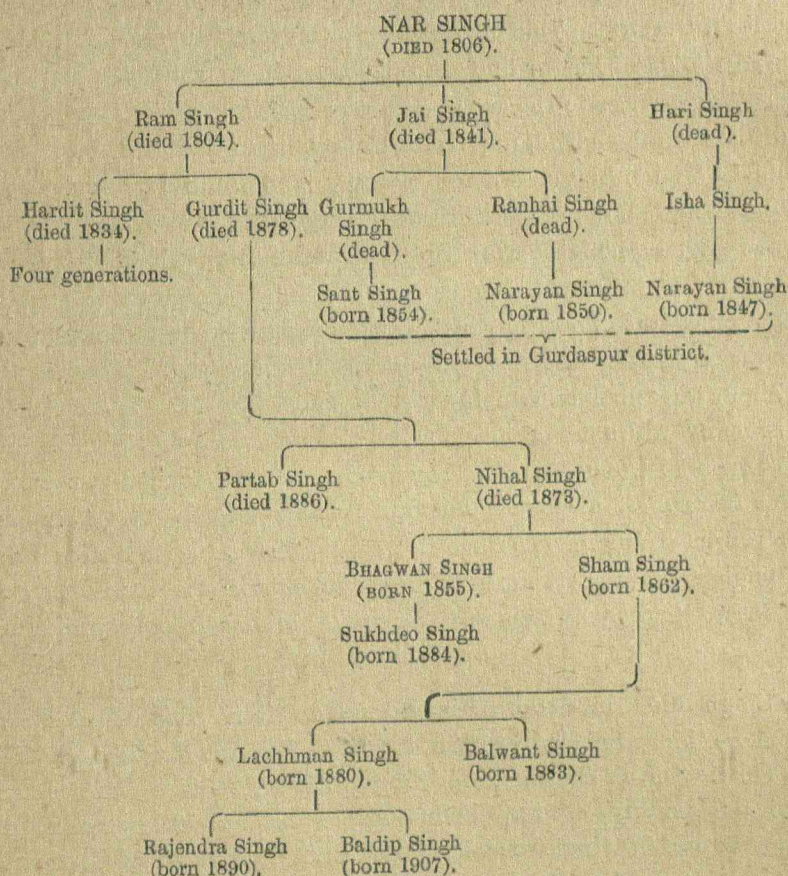
received a grant of waste land in Amritsar district. He, with his son and grandson, died of plague in 1903. Their widows are in possession of their land, which amounts to some 350 acres.

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.

AMRITSAR DISTRICT.

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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 Singh'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 Papuakha, 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.

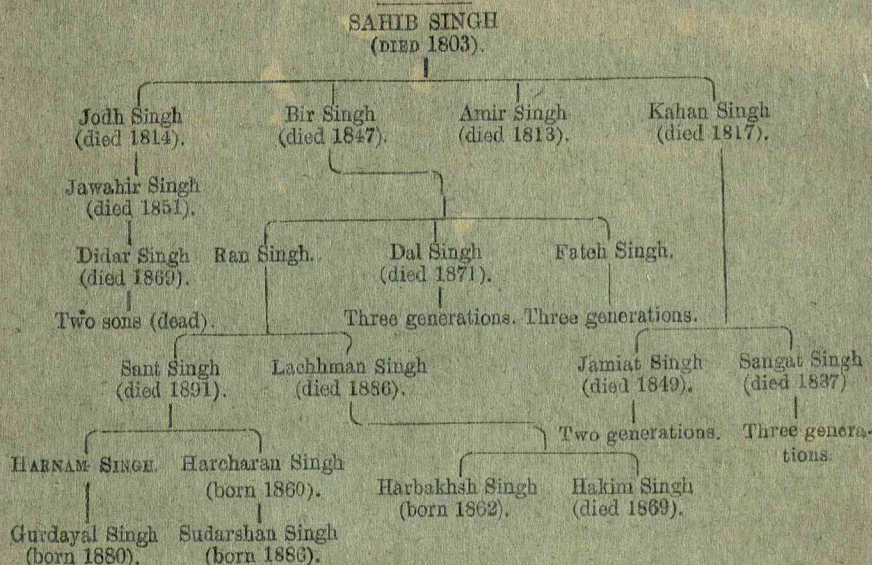
Such are the legends regarding the founding of Chamiani, which is undoubtedly of great antiquity. It was almost entirely destroyed in the great inundation about a thousand years ago when the five rivers of the Punjab united; but was rebuilt under the Emperors. In 1722 it was burnt down by the Sikhs,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

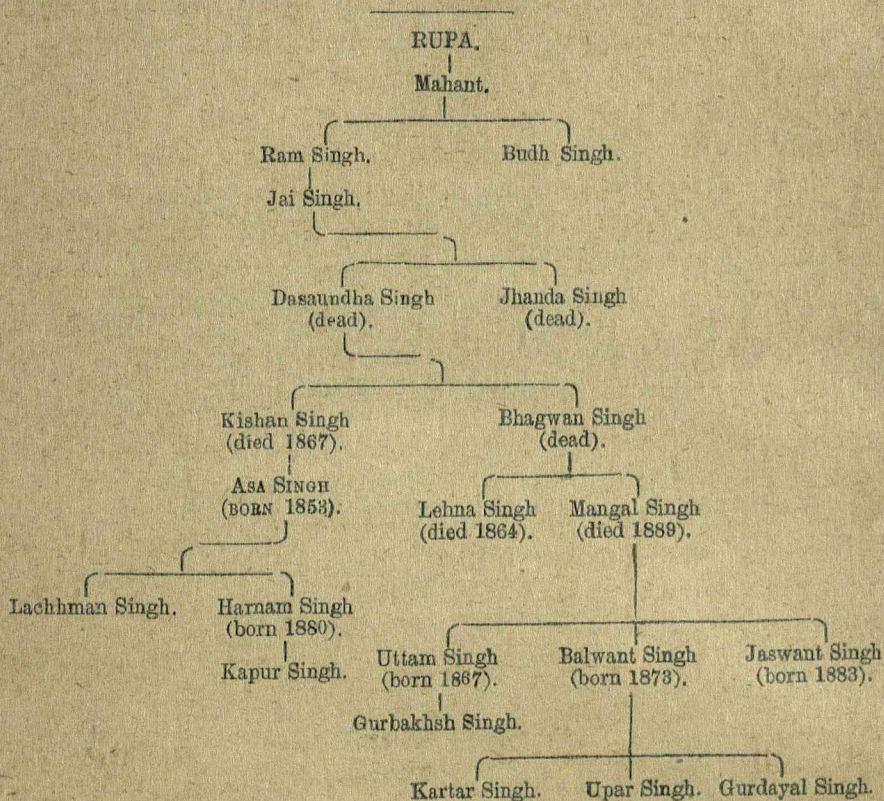
Sant Singh, son of Ran Singh, was sent down to Delhi as Jamadar in the *Risala* raised by Major R. Lawrence in July 1857 to serve with the Guide Cavalry at the siege. A portion of the *Risala* was permanently transferred to the Guide Corps; the remainder formed the nucleus of the Delhi Mounted Police,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

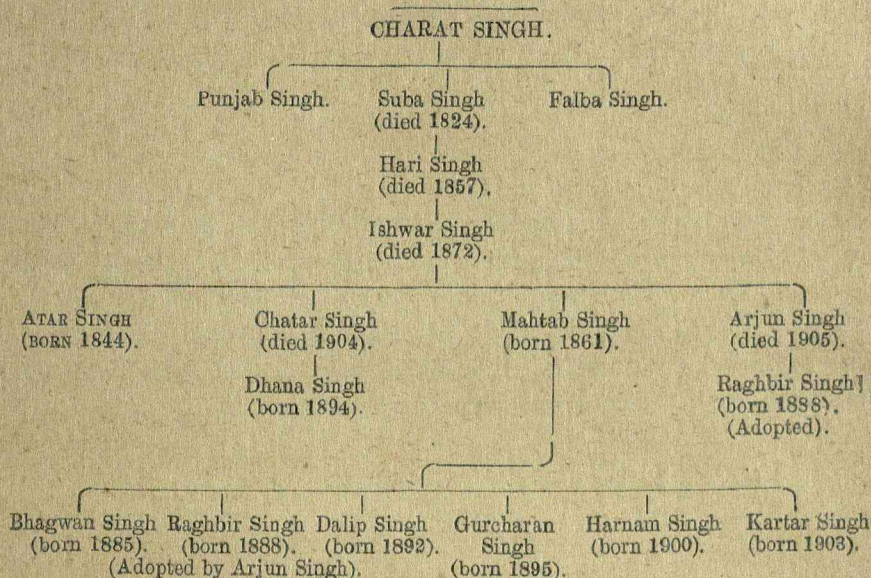
Asa Singh is married into the family of Sardar Lehna Singh, Majithia. His nephew Balwant Singh is a Deputy Inspector of Police.



AMRITSAR DISTRICT.

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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 Chamari, the *patrela* 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 Ghorchara 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.

CHIEFS AND FAMILIES OF NOTE.

In 1848 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.

CSL

VIR SINGH.

Jai Singh.

Sukha Singh (died 1840), (childless).
Charat Singh (died 1864).
Bhup Singh (died 1840).
Jamiat Singh (dead).
Atar Singh (died 1858).
Gulab Singh (died 1855).
Punjab Singh (died 1888).
Anup Singh (dead).
Four generations.
Four generations.
Three generations.
Three generations.
Bishan Singh.
Two generations.

NIHAL SINGH
(BORN 1819).

Dayal Singh
(died 1906),
(childless).

Kishan Singh
(died 1880),
(childless).

Gurmukh Singh
(died 1890).

Ishwar Singh
(died 1905).

Mul Singh
(born 1853).

Ganda Singh
(born 1854).

Malha Singh
(born 1857).

Ujagar Singh
(born 1882).

Ichar
Singh
(born
1897).

Karam
Singh
(born
1902).

Tara
Singh
(born
1893).

Gulzar
Singh
(born
1903).

Ladha Singh
(born 1863).

Sohan Singh
(born 1889).

Indar Singh
(born 1891).

Sant Singh
(born 1897).

Sidhu Singh
(born 1900).

Mohan Singh
(born 1904).

Nawab Singh
(born 1890).

Ikbāl Singh
(born 1903).

AMRITSAR DISTRICT.



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.

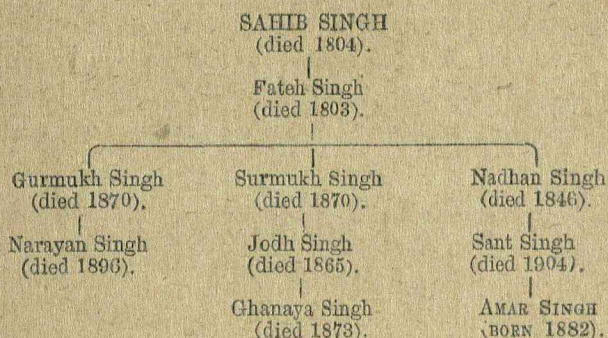
Bishan Singh, son of Punjab Singh, and grandson of Jai Singh, is chief *lambardar* of the village, but Nihal Singh, son of Charat Singh, is regarded as representing the family. The latter's son Mul Singh was a Subadar in the 24th Punjab Infantry and has retired on a pension, with a grant of five squares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



AMRITSAR DISTRICT.

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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 Saunian under Diwan Hakim Rai. He died in 1870.

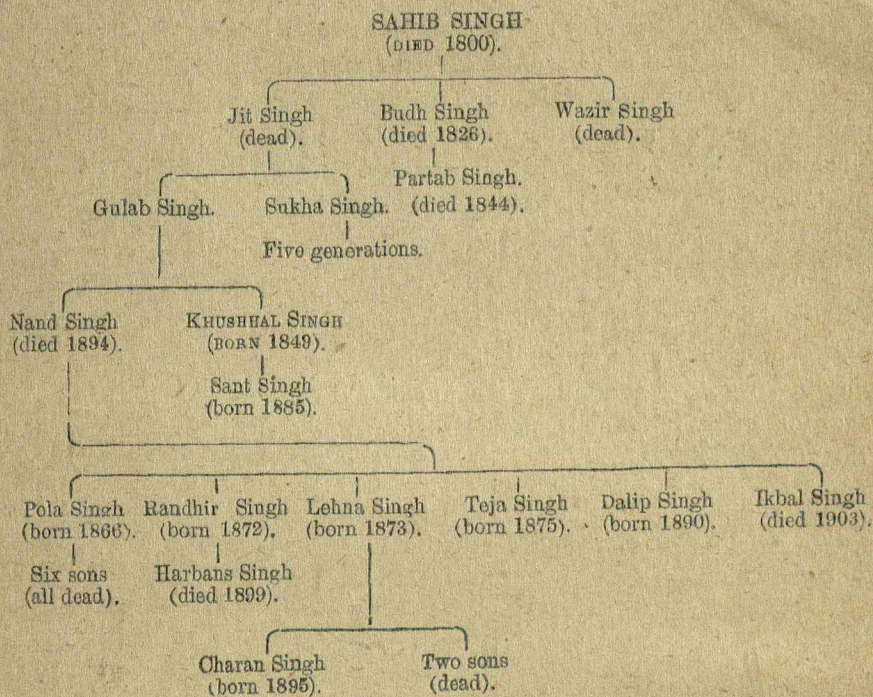


The *jagirs* held by Sarmukh Singh and Jodh Singh lapsed on their death. Sant Singh on his father's death received a pension of Rs. 260 per annum till he attained his majority. He was *lambardar* of Tang, where he owned a considerable amount of land. His son, Amar Singh, is now the only living representative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

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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 Rapowali. Sahib Singh, who took the *panihal* and became a Sikh about the year 1770, was the great-grandson of Gagu. He joined Sardar Jai Singh Kanhaya and took possession of about thirty villages in the neighbourhood of Kathu-Nangal, Dharnkot, 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 Kanhaya Sardars to tender his allegiance to Ranjit Singh, by whom he and the sons of Jit Singh were

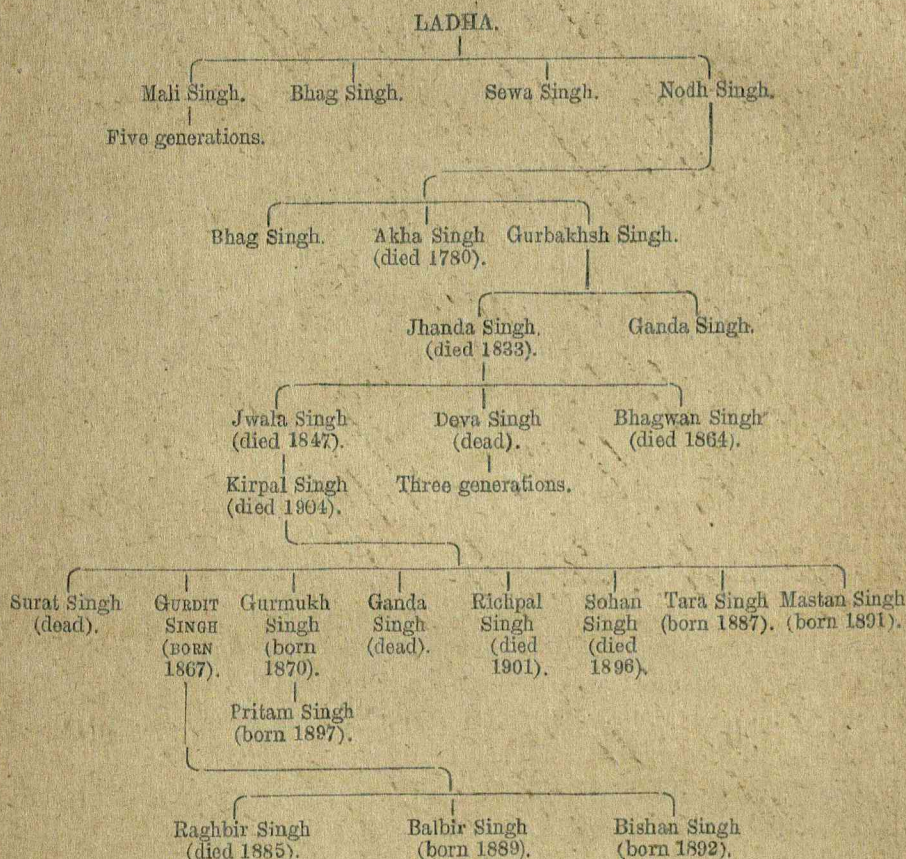


allowed to retain their estates. He served in the army in Hazara, Yusufzai and Kashmir till 1823, when he was obliged to retire through ill-health, and the Maharaja resumed all his villages except Ladha-Manda, worth Rs. 3,000, and a portion of Kathu-Nangal. He died three years later, and his only son, 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 Bannu 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



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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.

Mussammat 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.

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