



HISTORY OF
BURDHANKUTI.

(9 Annas Ghoraghat)



Published by—Ramesh Chandra Ghosh
Burdhankalli, Dt. Rangpur.

Genealogical table of Bardhankuti Raj-family.

Raja Rajendra.
 |
 Raja Baggernit.
 |
 Raja Narruttum.
 |
 Raja Kishen Dulal.
 |
 Raja Nunkishen.
 |
 Raja Shama Kishore.
 |
 Raja Bowanny Kant.
 |
 Raja Durgah Kant.
 |
 Raja Durgah Persaud.
 |
 Raja Ram Dulai
 |
 Raja Goperrammun.
 |
 Raja Omar Kant.
 |
 Raja Gourhurry.
 |
 Raja Keshenendra.

Raja Arjabur Mandal (Ergondbar)

Raja Bhagaban. — 1022 B.S. — 1615 A.D.
 |
 Raja Manohar.
 |
 Raja Roghunath. — 1658 A.D.
 |
 Raja Romanath. 1065 B.S.
 |
 Raja Harrinath. 1075 B.S.

Raja Bishunath. 1122 B. 1149 B.S.

Kumar Naranarain.

Raja Shibuath. Kumar Krishnanath. K. Brojokishore.

Kumar Krishnanath.

Raja Gournath. K. Gokulnath. K. Nabakishore. K. Gourikishore. K. Radhakishore.

K. Goluknath. K. Gobindnath. K. Pranath. K. Anandanath. K. Shyamkishore.

K. Chandranath. K. Sasinath. K. Gobindkishore. K. Chandrakishore.

K. Shailesh Chandra. K. Sitesh Chandra. K. Satish Chandra.

Sashindrakishore. Rabindrakishore. Tarun Kumar.

Soujoy — Soujib

Prasun Kumar Ray

To present a connected history of Bardhankuti Zeminders, one of the oldest Raj families in Northern Bengal who ruled over a considerable portion of Northern Bengal as independent chiefs even before the 12th Century A. D. is practically impossible in the absence of sufficient historic materials or any authentic records linking the past, in the possession of generations that followed. That the family existed even during the time of Mahammad-i-Bakhtyar, the Khaliji's expedition to Bhutan and Tibet in or about 1198 A. D. after he had ousted Laksman Sen, the Sen King of Bengal, is noted in the "Tabakat-i-Nasiri,"— A general history of the Muhamadan dynasties of Asia including Hindustan from 810 A. D. to 1260 A. D., by Maulana Minhaj-ud-din Abu-Umar-i-Uzman as translated by Major H. G. Raverty, (pp. 560, Vol. 1), thus,—

"—One of the chiefs of the tribes of Kunch and Mej fell into the hands of Muhammad-i-Bakhtyar, the Khelj, and at his hand also the former adopted the Mahomedan faith. He agreed to conduct Muhammad-i-Bakhtyar into those hills and act as guide; and he brought the latter to a place where there is a city the name of which is Burdhan (Kot). They relate after this manner that in ancient times Shah Gustasib returned from

the country of Chin came towards Kamrud and by that route got into Hindustan and found the city Burdhan (Kot).”

The same fact finds a place in different shape in Stuart's History of Bengal (pp. 65) thus,—

“—Muhammad Buktyar had the merit of converting one of the chiefs of the tribe of Koonch to whom he gave the name of Agmeikh to the Musaulmin faith. This person undertook to be his guide and director on their expedition (to Bhootan and Thibet). He first led the army to a city named Burdhan or Murdehan under the walls of which ran a very large river, called Bugmatty, three times as broad as the Ganges. This river falls into the Indian sea, which is called in the Hindy language Sumunder—.”

Some historians say that the city of Bardhankot was founded by one Bardhan, a hindu Rajah of Poundra-Vardhan or Parashuram-garh who left the place during first Mahammadan invasion of Bengal.

Nothing more of interest is heard about Bardhankot, upto the reign of Aurangzeb, the Mughal Emperor, when the Zemindari under Rajah Bhagaban was split into two, viz, 9 annas and 7 annas, the latter portion being lost to the Zeminders

and included in Dinajpur Raj Zamindari under circumstances noted in Mr. Goodlad's account of Edrakpur (Bardhankuti) incorporated hereafter. Opinion of course differ as to the division of Bardhankuti but it is a fact that it was divided as such and it was sanctioned from the Dacca Subah. A portion of the remaining Zamindari was again usurped by an outsider but it was restored to Bardhankuti Zaminders by Emperor Aurangzeb. During the latter part of 18th Century the Rajahs of Dinajpur proved a very powerful foe to the family and plagued them incessantly and even put a claim to the properties of the family as is evidenced by the Bengal Records, Vol. 1 (1782-93). It also appears from the above records that when Mr. Goodlad was the Collector of Rangpur a very serious conflict arose over the post of Dewan to Rajah Gour Nath Roy between Dewan Rajkishen Roy and another named Rajballav and it ended in the latter Rajballav being placed almost in the place of Rajah. The subjects of the Rajah intervened, Rajballav was removed and Dewan Rajkishen was reinstated. There is a local poem describing graphically the facts above and the same, though in Bengali has found a place in this sketch.

The evil times that befell the family and led to its gradual decline into its present deplorable position is noted in Mr. Glazier's History of Rangpur and an extract therefrom has also been incorporated.

MR. GODDLAD'S ACCOUNT OF EDRAKPUR
APPENDIX A. (NO. 12) PARTICULARS
OF THE ZAMINDARY OF EDRAKPUR,
(BURDHANKUTTI)

I have endeavoured all that █ lay in my power to find out the particulars relating to Edrakpur, but there are no kind of records to which I can refer, and the zaminder either does not possess or will not produce the history of his house. Whatever information I have procured, I obtained from him with great trouble, and it is so very vague that I am almost ashamed to send it.

The first zaminder there is an account of is Rajah Rajendra, but in what year he held the zamindary or during whose reign, there is no account; his successors were Rajah Baggernit, Rajah Narruttum, Rajah Kishen Dulal, Rajah Nunkishen, Rajah Shama Kishore, Rajah Bowanni Kant, Rajah Goperrammun, Rajah Omer Kant, Rajah Gourhurri, Rajah Keshenendra and Rajah Ergondber, all these people if they ever exist, are no farther recorded than merely by name. Rajah Ergnodber was succeeded by his son Rajah Bhaugwan, who ^{was} an idiot; his dewan was also of the same name who availing himself of his master's weakness went to Dacca, where the Subah then resided, claimed the zamindary as his own right and by bribing the Subah turned out

the lawful possessor. A long dispute ensued which at length ended the division of the zamindary, the lawful possessor having nine annas and the usurper seven, which seven annas are now part of the zamindary of Dinajpur. It is very remarkable that, in a circumstance where one half of the inheritance was done away, neither the zamindar nor his officers are able to tell me the name of the Subah in whose time the event took place.

Rajah Bhaugwan was succeeded by his son Rajah Munhari, and in the reign of Shaw Suja a man named Madhu Sing obtained possession of five of the remaining nine annas of the zamindary. This obliged the zamindar to repair to Delhi for justice and firman was obtained from the Emperor Aurungzeb, dated the 11th. year of his reign, turning out Madhu Sing and giving the zamindary to Rajah Roghunath the son of Rajah Munhari. This is the only document I have been able to obtain. On perusing the copy of the firman I was surprised to find the division of the seven annas confirmed, which, I think would hardly have been the case; had the fact been as represented to me by the zamindar and which want of better information I have been obliged to insert. In the zeman of the firman I find the zamindary was much larger than it is at present, and that the Pargaunah of Coondy which is now in Rangpur, the purgaunah of Sorooppur which belongs

to Rajshahy and pargaunah Pludsy which is now in Dinajpur, were all subordinate to this zamindary, but the officers here cannot tell me when they were separated. Rajah Roghunath was succeeded by his son Rajah Raminath, whose son Rajah Hurrinath succeeded him, and in whose name there is another firman confirming him in his zamindary dated the seventeenth year of the reign of Aurungzeb. I can obtain no further particulars than that the last named zamindar was succeeded by his son Rajah Bessinauth, and was succeeded by his son Rajah Sheenauth father of the present possessor, Rajah Gournauth.

It is a great pity that no records have been kept of the circumstances relating to this district; it has once been a place of great importance and the ruins of Ghoraghat, which are all brick and stone and many miles in length are now overgrown with jungle and inhabited only by wild beasts.

Tradition says it was the seat of Government till the Emperor Jahanghir removed it to Dacca, and I am informed that the records of the khalsa of those of the sudder canoongoe will show that the Sirkar of Ghoraghat from the district subordinate to it once paid a revenue of ninety lacs of rupees.

SD. R. GOODLAD,
Collector.

HISTORY OF BURDHANKUTI.

(9 Annas Ghoreghat)

From

GLAZIER'S HISTORY OF RANGPUR.

History of Burdhankuti.

(9 Annas Ghoraghat)

FROM MR. GLAZIER'S HISTORY OF RANGPUR.

EDRAKPUR, DINAJPUR, AND THE SICCA MEHALS.
SARGAR GHORAGHAT.

Edrakpur and Dinajpur, known respectively as nine annas and seven annas Ghoraghat, were the remains of the large zamindari of that name, and the sicca Mehals, five jagir estates held at fixed rates thus denominated, were separated talooks of the same zamindari, which at the time, of which we write, comprised in its two shares the greater part of Dinajpur District, a portion of Rangpur to the south, and nearly the whole of the present districts of Maldah and Bogra. It had a century before, in the time of Aurungzeb, included Sorrooppur and Coondy ; but the former parganah had now become a portion of the Nattore zamindari, and Coondy was a separate estate divided among several shares. The city of Ghoraghat, was once the seat of the Eastern Mogal Government with a circle of collection of ninety lacs of rupees, but the seat of Government

was removed to Dacca in the reign of Jehanghir. We have seen that Ghoraghat was the basis whence the Rangpur chakras were over-run at the close of the seventeenth century. The site of the city is in the Dinajpur District, as it lies on the west bank of Kurutya, and I am informed that extensive ruins still exist, imbedded in thick jungle. Mr. Goodlad's account of Ghoraghat given in Appendix A. (No 12), gives long list of fifteen Rajahs who are names and nothing more; and according to the story which he cites, but doubts, it seems to me, without good reason, the division into the two shares of 9 annas and seven annas was brought about by foul dealing. One of the zamindars Rajah Bhagawan being an idiot, his dewan who held the same name, took advantage of this fact, and by judicious management obtained a grant of the zamindari from the Dacca Subah, and a long contest which ensued resulted in the division above noted, and usurper retaining the 7 annas share, that of Dinajpur.

Dinajpur was put under separate charge of the Rangpur Collector during the two years of Debi Singh's farm—1781-83, and the Collector was directed to reside occasionally at Dinajpur to be a check upon the farmer. Then Mr. Medowall was Collector for one year (1783-1784) before he came to Rangpur, and after his incumbency Dinajpur was again under Rangpur for two years more (1784-1786).

In May 1786, Mr. Hatch was appointed Collector, and the districts have ever since remained distinct.

Edrakpur, the 9 annas share, had been under Rangpur in 1773 when Mr. Purling was Collector : where it was subject to subsequently does not appear ; but in 1781 it was again brought into this collectorate, and remained so since, with the exception of the one year, 1786-87 of the Ghoraghat Collectorate. The revenue assessed on this zamindari fluctuated between Rs. 1,85,612 in 1178 B.S., Rs. 1,30,529 in 1181 B. S., and 1,60,196 in the time of Debi Singh, at which last amount it continued. After the inundations of 1787, a deduction of Rs. 15,000 was allowed up to 1196 B.S. (1789-90 A. D.), but this allowance was resumed the first year of the decennial settlement. Edrakpur has now disappeared from the map. Its 69 parganahs were sold in lots early in the present century for arrears of revenue : only a few small portions remain to the descendants of the former Rajahs, not paying for more than Rs 2000 (12,000) to Government as Revenue. The Dinajpur Rajah still retains a considerable, although much reduced, estate paying a lac and three quarters of revenue.

The Sicca Mehals merit no special mention. Their revenues having always remained fixed. After the decennial settlement the most southerly, Bullehar, was transferred to Rajshahi, and portions of others go to form the district of Bogra.