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F. KHAN

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INTRODUCTION

IN tracing the history of the Agjee family I have realized that I have had to rely (not unquestionably) on the vague memories of the elders and on other uncertain records.

Much time has been spent researching the roots of the Agjee family to give a fair picture of its origins in India and its logical development in South Africa to the present day.

IN all fairness it must be stated that in order to establish a totally accurate and comprehensive picture of the family great patience and time is required.

Two days ago while walking past the Brooke Street Cemetery I decided to take a peep and found that two members

of the Agjee family are buried there.

I wished to have been able to include photographs of these tombs and graves in this project but time does not permit to have these included here

Records show that the Agjee family leap from India to South Africa occurred in 1887 with the immigration of two brothers viz namely Cassim and Ebrahim Agjee ...

THE AGJEE FAMILY TREE

1889

CASSIM ESSOP AGJEE AND MARIAM (FIRST WIFE) Divorced

OFFSPRINGS

SON : ISMAIL
 DAUGHTER : RASOOL } PASSED AWAY IN 1894
 SON : MOHAMED (MARRIED COUSIN KHADIJA) daughter of Uncle Ebrahim

OFFSPRING

SON : SULEMAN Agjee

CASSIM'S SECOND WIFE : URABIA HOUSEN NOORGAT (PASSED AWAY)

OFFSPRING

DAUGHTER : RASOOL (PASSED AWAY 1903)
 SON : AHMED (BORN 1901) MARRIED KHADIJA (daughter of Suleman Moosa Engar)

OFFSPRING

DAUGHTER : Ayesha (born - 6/4/20) MARRIED to Cousin Dawood Ebrahim AGJEE (son of Ebrahim Agjee)

OFFSPRING

SONS : YUSEIF
 YAKOUB
 MOOSA
 YUNUS
 DAUGHTERS : ZAINUB
 NAZERA
 MARIAM

CASSIM'S THIRD WIFE : HAFES EBRAHIM ESSACK NOORGAT (PASSED AWAY 1911)

SON - Mohamed FROM PREVIOUS MARRIAGE - MARRIED COUSIN FATHIMA ESSOP NOORGAT

OFFSPRING

DAUGHTER : FATHIMA (born 1906 MARRIED to MOOSA (son of Hafez A. Moosa))

OFFSPRING

SONS : Mohamed
 YUSUF
 DAUGHTER : Hawabibi

OFFSPRING

SON : Ebrahim
 daughter : MARIAM

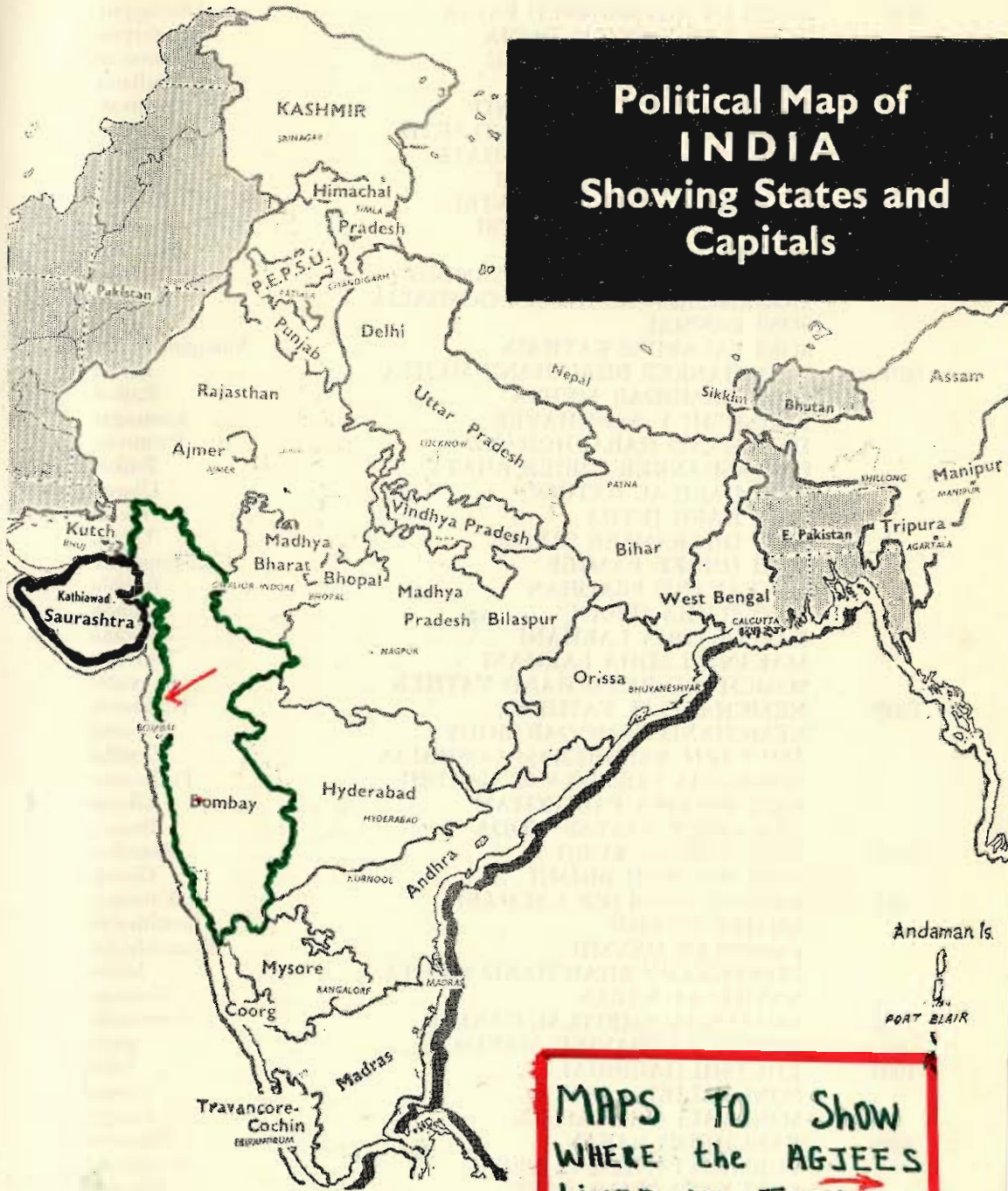
CASSIM'S FOURTH WIFE : FATHIMA BHAYAT (MARRIED 1912)

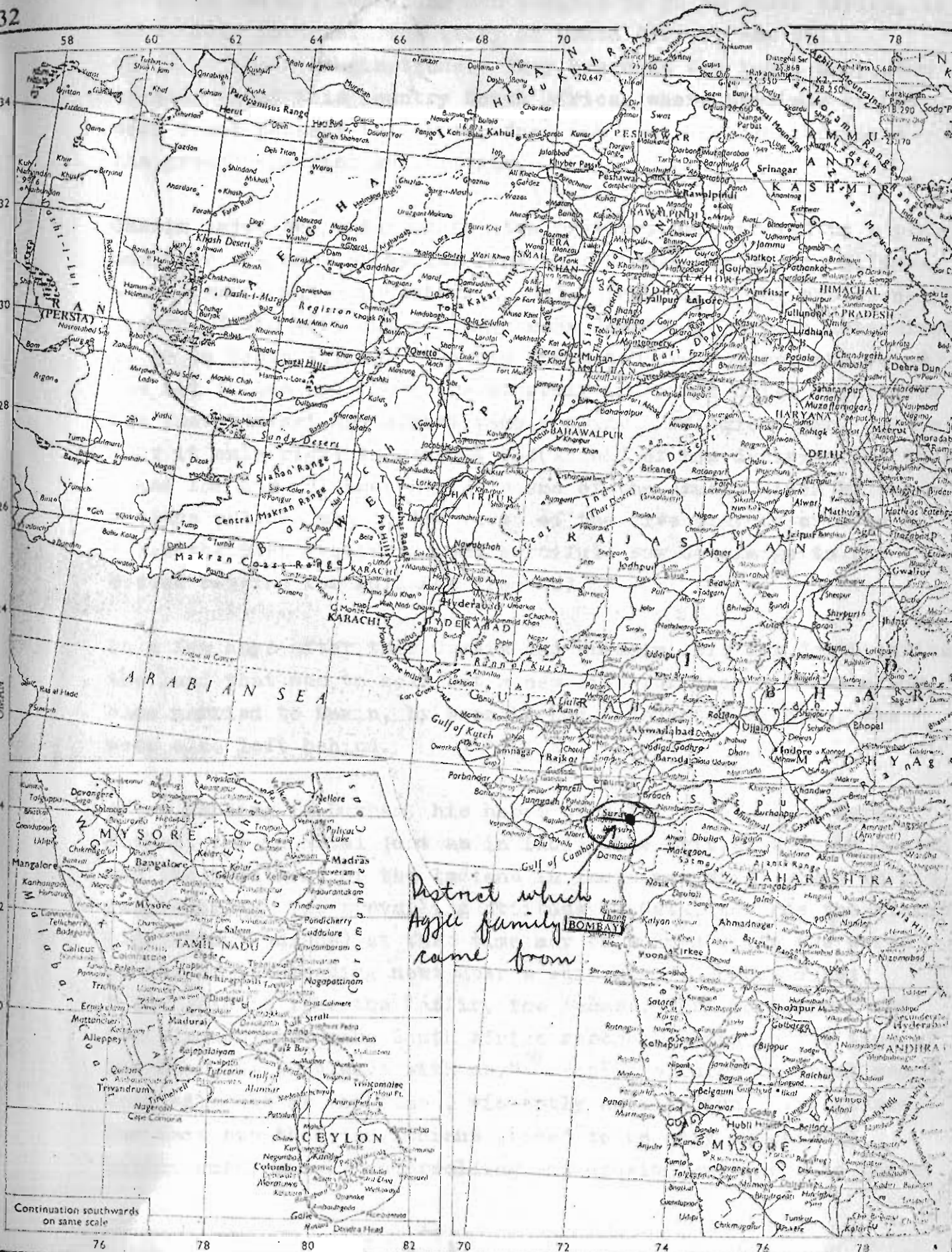
OFFSPRING

SON : GOOLAM Mohiyuddeen (MARRIED AMINA - dau A.H MOOSA)

DAUGHTERS : Fauzia born (30/9/42)
 Rabia 29/1/53
 Fathima and Khadija (twins) 28/4/54
 SONS : Goolam Qutbuddeen 22/1/44
 Hoosen 8/8/56

Political Map of INDIA Showing States and Capitals





MAP OF INDIA

Early in the spring of 1889 in Tadkeshvar, in the district of Surat in Bombay, two young men decided to go to South Africa, to make their fortune. The story of South Africa, was still vivid in their imaginations. They heard in the local shop, men talking about this country South Africa, where precious stones were found beneath the earth, food and land was plentiful and the ground was rich and fertile.

Cassim Agjee the elder of the two brothers was married to a young woman by the name of Mariam from whom he had two minor children, a son Ismail and a daughter Rasool. Looking at the skeleton-like figure of his wife and children made Cassim Agjee more determined to go to South Africa. For him India had no promise, the rains had not fallen and the store of grain and other dried foods from the last harvest had almost gone. Being a religious man, Cassim felt it only right to consult God (Allah) of his decision and thus asked for his guidance. The sound of the Azaan, given by the Moulana calling men to the first of the five prayers offered to Allah (the Most Gracious, Most Merciful) saw Cassim go to the Mosque begging for guidance from God.

In a few days after this Cassim and Ebrahim left for South Africa, the land that was to hold out a new life for them. Ebrahim was also married to Momin, by whom he had a daughter Fathima, who were also left behind.

After landing in Durban, his hopes of a fairy tale land were dashed, for in Natal just as in India, the British were in control and the treatment of the Indians in India was still vivid in his imagination. The prevailing attitude in Natal towards the Blacks (including Indians) at that time may be summed up in the words of one of its leading newspaper's editor - F. Horace Rose: "The Asiatic like the Kaffir, the locust, East Cost fever and the plagues that make South Africa resemble Egypt in the time of the Pharoahs is always with us." ^① Public opinion in Natal was decidedly and at the time, violently anti-Indian. The reason for this was that the Indians proved to be very successful businessmen, mainly enderselling and drawing customers to their

1. B. Pachau : South Africa's Indians, The Evolution of
A Minority, p. 93.



CASSIM AGJEE



CASSIM AGJEE'S fourth wife (LEFT)
with ^{grand} daughter Rabia



GOOLAM Mohi YUDEEN

The King Meets Veterans Of The Indian Army In Durban



The strategy of the Indian Traders against the laws passed by the South African government was to claim full rights as British subjects. This picture shows the Indians associating themselves with the British.

shops, much to the anger of the whites.

Thus Cassim's hopes of opening his own business were dashed, since it was extremely difficult to obtain a business licence. To obtain a licence one had to go through a licensing officer who had the power to refuse one licence and there was no appeal against this, thus allowing Whites to cut down on the number of Indian traders.

Thus both Cassim and Ebrahim went into private employment. Cassim worked for Parrydene Hotel which is still in Pinetown. Early in 1894 desirous of seeing his family went to India, only to find that his children passed away. The following year a son named Mohamad was born. While in India he married his second wife, Urabia Hoosen Noorgat and she bore him a daughter, Rasool.

Towards the end of 1895 Cassim returned to Natal, leaving both his wives and children behind. After landing in Durban he went into partnership with Tadkeshvarwasi named Ahmed Bawa Desai, also known as A.E. Desai and together they opened a retail shop in Northdale, where they started trading. During the year 1898 Cassim's second wife Urabia and daughter came to Natal to join him and they took up residence in Northdene. The year 1901 saw the birth of another son, who was named Ahmed. Subsequently Rasool passed away during 1903.

The years of hard work and sacrifice at last enabled the Agjee family to go to Mecca on pilgrimage, the mission every Muslim looks forward to. After performing Hajj they proceeded directly to India. Meanwhile Ebrahim, who was still in Natal also returned to India. While in India Cassim's second wife, Urabia passed away and the years of separation between Cassim and his first wife, drew them apart until finally it had led to divorce. Thereafter, he married his third wife, Hafes, Ebrahim Noorgat, widow of the late Essack Noorgat. She had a little son by him, named Mohamed. During 1906 a daughter, named Fathima was born to Hafes.

During the year 1907 Cassim Agjee returned to Durban, accompanied by his third wife, Hafes, their daughter Fathima, sons Ahmed and Mohamed (by his first wife Mariam) and stepson Mohamed Essack Noorgat (son of Hafes from her previous marriage). After

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arriving in Durban another business was opened in Malvern, also in partnership with A.E. Desai, who was running the Northdene shop and Cassim was in charge of new shop in Malvern. Ebrahim stayed behind in Tadkeshvar to assist his parents in farming operations.

All of Cassim's children attended primary school in Malvern. After a short but happy marriage, the Cassim's third wife Hafes finally passed away in Malvern in 1911, leaving behind son Mohamed Noorgat and daughter Fathima. Subsequently the partnership between Cassim and A.E. Desai was mutually dissolved, Ahmed's father Cassim retaining the Malvern business and Desai keeping the one in Northdene.

Previous to the foregoing, Mohamed, on leaving school, was sent for a visit to India where he married cousin Khadija, a daughter of his uncle Ebrahim. A few months after marriage he returned to Durban leaving his wife behind with her parents. Shortly after arriving in Durban he opened his own business in Umgeni Road. His wife came to join him subsequently. A son named Suleman was born to them. After trading a number of years Mohamed passed away, leaving behind his minor son Suleman and Kadija.

During the year 1912, Cassim Agjee again visited India accompanied by Fathima and Ahmed. His business was left in charge of a manager (the late Mohamed E. Nakooda). While in India Cassim married his fourth wife, Fathima Bhayat of Kharod and returned to Durban with her and son Ahmed and daughter Fathima. During 1913 a son, Goolam Mohiydeen was born in Malvern.

Subsequently Fathima was married to Moosa, a son of the Hafez A.H. Moosa. He joined his father's business, but a few years after established his own business known as Enterprise Wholesalers (Pty) Ltd., which was successfully conducted for a number of years until his demise on 11/1/62. His two sons, Mohamed and Yusuf who were thoroughly groomed in business by their late father during his life-time, took over the reins and continued the business. Fathima who was in poor health at the time passed away on the 18/2/62 leaving sons Mohamed and Yusuf and daughter Hawabibi.

2. Y.S. MEER : DOCUMENTS OF INDENTURED LABOUR
NATAL 1851 - 1917.

W129752

BESONDERHEDE VAN PERSOON—PARTICULARS OF PERSON

OCLEDE
DECEASED

IDENTITY NUMBER 01112815003 05 4 S.A. CITIZEN
AGJEE IDENTITY NUMBER
AMON CASSIM

Nooiensvan
Maiden Name
Geboortedatum
Date of Birth 28/11/1901
Geslag
Sex MALE/MANLIK
Geboorteland
Country of Birth SOUTH AFRICA/SUID-AFRIKA
Datum Uitgerek
Date of Issue 27/3/1973 Q



Ahmed (AMON)
AGJEE
(From CASSIM'S
second marriage
to UABIA NOORAT

Uitgegee op gesag van die Sekretaris van Binnelandse Sake.
Issued by authority of the Secretary for the Interior.
* Raadpleeg huweliksattifikaat op bladsy 6 in die geval van 'n vrou
wat na bosteende uitreikingsdatum getroud is.
* Refer to marriage certificate on page 6 in the event of a woman
who married after the above date of issue.



RASOOL AGJEE
(From CASSIM'S second marriage
to UABIA NOORAT

Mohamed was then married to a daughter of the late Cassim Jassat of Pietermaritzberg; Yusuf to a daughter of the late Ahmed Seedat, a brother of Doctor K.M. Seedat of Durban and daughter Hawabibi was married to Ebrahim, son of the late Mohamed A.H. Moosa of the Victoria Furniture Mart (Pty) Limited. Ebrahim took over the reins of the business after his father passed away in the year 1940 and has worked himself up to be the sole properties proprietes of the business.

Meanwhile Ahmed's stepbrother, Mohamed Essack Noorgat, after having completed his schooling was sent to India for a visit during 1920/1923 and there he married his cousin Fathima, only daughter of Essop Noorgat(his uncle). He did not return to Durban until after approximately 3 three years, leaving his wife Fathima and two minor children, son Ebrahim and daughter Maraim, in the care of his uncle. After arriving in Durban during 1926 he went into private(enterprise) employment. Meanwhile his wife Fathima passed away in India leaving behind two minors. After a couple of years or so Mohamed again visited India and while there he married his second wife, Amina Pandar. Subsequently he returned to Durban, leaving his wife and two children behind. He then went into private employment, but shortly thereafter started his own business in Stanger.

A short while later Amina, accompanied by the two minor children, Ebrahim and Mariam, came over to Durban to join him. After successfully running his business for a number of years he went for pilgrimage, accompanied by his wife Amina. On his return from Mecca he continued to carry on his business very successfully for a number of years assisted by his sons. He did not enjoy perfect health during the last few years of his life and passed away peacefully recently, leaving behind his wife Amina, sons Ebrahim(since deceased) and Gori. All his surviving majors are happily married. After his demise the sons took over the reins of business and are progressing very favourably.

Owing to ill health Cassim Agjee disposed of his business in Malvern in 1923 and proceeded to India accompanied by his wife Fathima and son Goolam Mahiyuddeen by boat. Unfortunately

Cassim Agjee passed away on board the ship in Bombay harbour and he was buried in Bombay. His wife and son proceeded to Tadkesvar(5/11/23). Goolam Mohiyuddeen returned to Durban during June 1925 and started schooling in Durban. In 1940 he married Amina, daughter of the late Hafez and Mrs. A.H. Moosa.

<u>Issues:</u>	daughter, Fawzia	30/9/42
	son, Goolam	22/1/49
	daughter, Rabia	29/1/53
	daughter, Fathima and Khadija (twins)	28/4/54
	son, Hoosen	8/8/56

After a short illness Goolam Mohiyuddeen passed away in Durban, on 13/12/57 leaving behind Fathima(mother), wife Amina, two sons and four daughters to mourn the loss. Shortly after his mother passed away in India on 4/9/73.

Ahmed meanwhile attended the Durban's Higher Grade Government Indian School in Carlisle Street (as it was then known) and after passing standard seven left to take employment with the wholesale firm of A.H. Moosa and Sons as a general clerk. While at the same time taking part time studies in Accountancy. After working for a number of years he proceeded to India in 1919 and while there married Khadija, a daughter of the late Hajee and Mrs. Suleman Moosa Engar and returned to Durban with her in the following year.

Shortly after returning to Durban he went into partnership with Mr. A.E. Rawat(presently of Port Shepstone) and opened a business at Moguntia near Iziqolweni on the Port Shepstone--Harding narrow gauge line and is about midway between the two towns. The business was run under the firm name of Moguntia Supply Stores which was converted into a limited liability company during 1926. A branch store was acquired and opened at Enqabeni, which is a few miles up the line and it was conducted under the charge of Mr. A.E. Rawat. Subsequently an amalgamation of business interests took place between the Moguntia Supply Stores Limited and the White House (Pty) Limited of Port Shepstone which lasted for a few years and was dissolved in 1934. The original owner of the White House, Mr. M.E. Desai (now deceased) took over the White House business, Mr. A.E. Rawat the Enqabeni store and

PHOTOGRAPHS OF THE AGJEE FAMILY



YUSUF
AGJEE

(SON OF AYESHA AND DAWOOD
EBRAHIM AGJEE)



FATHIMA

(DAUGHTER OF CASSIM AGJEE
FROM THIRD WIFE)

HAFES EBRAHIM ESSACK NOORANI

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Ahmed the Moguntia store; each one trading on his own account.

Ahmed ran his business under original name of Moguntia Supply Stores Limited until 1944 when he disposed of it and moved to Durban and acquired a business there. After trading for a number of years he proceeded to Mecca for pilgrimage in 1953 accompanied by wife Khadija. Shortly after returning from Mecca his wife Khadija passed away after a short illness on 23/6/54 in Durban, leaving behind three sons and five daughters to mourn the loss.

Issues: 1) Eldest daughter, Ayesha, b 6/11/20. As mentioned above she was married to Dawood Ebrahim Agjee of Port Shepstone and assisted in her husband's shop until his sudden demise ~~in~~ recently.

Issues: 1) Son, Yusuf, eldest, since married
2) Son, Mahomed, since married
3) Son, Yakoob, since married
4) Son, Moosa, since married
5) Son, Munus, since married
6) Daughter, Zainub, since married
7) Daughter, Nazeera,
8) Daughter, Mariam, } both unmarried and staying with mother in Port Shepstone.

All sons are trading on their own account in Port Shepstone and are progressing favourably, except Moosa who is a qualified school teacher and residing in Durban. Daughter Zainub is married to Mister Ahmed Patel of Lenasia and is living there with her husband who is a commercial traveller.

After the demise of his (Ahmed) wife Khadija in 1954 he married his second wife Rasool, (on 23/9/56) widow of the late Mister Cassim Mehtar and daughter of late Mister and Mrs. Hajee Ahmed Moosa Enqar (incidentally she was the first cousin of his late wife Khadija)

Thus the Agjee family history have been traced to Ahmed Agjee and their success in South Africa is mainly due to their hard work and patience in a time when South Africa was very hostile to the Indians. Thus one has to admire the Indian population as a whole for the advancement that they made in their lives.

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