

DOMAH RUNGEE (I27I3) - INDENTURED LABOURER

BY

R. BALRAM

(I2584)

HISTORY III

1983

U.D.W.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I WOULD LIKE TO EXPRESS MY SINCERE APPRECIATION AND GRATITUDE TO THE FOLLOWING PEOPLE FOR MAKING THIS RESEARCH PROJECT POSSIBLE. THEY ARE:

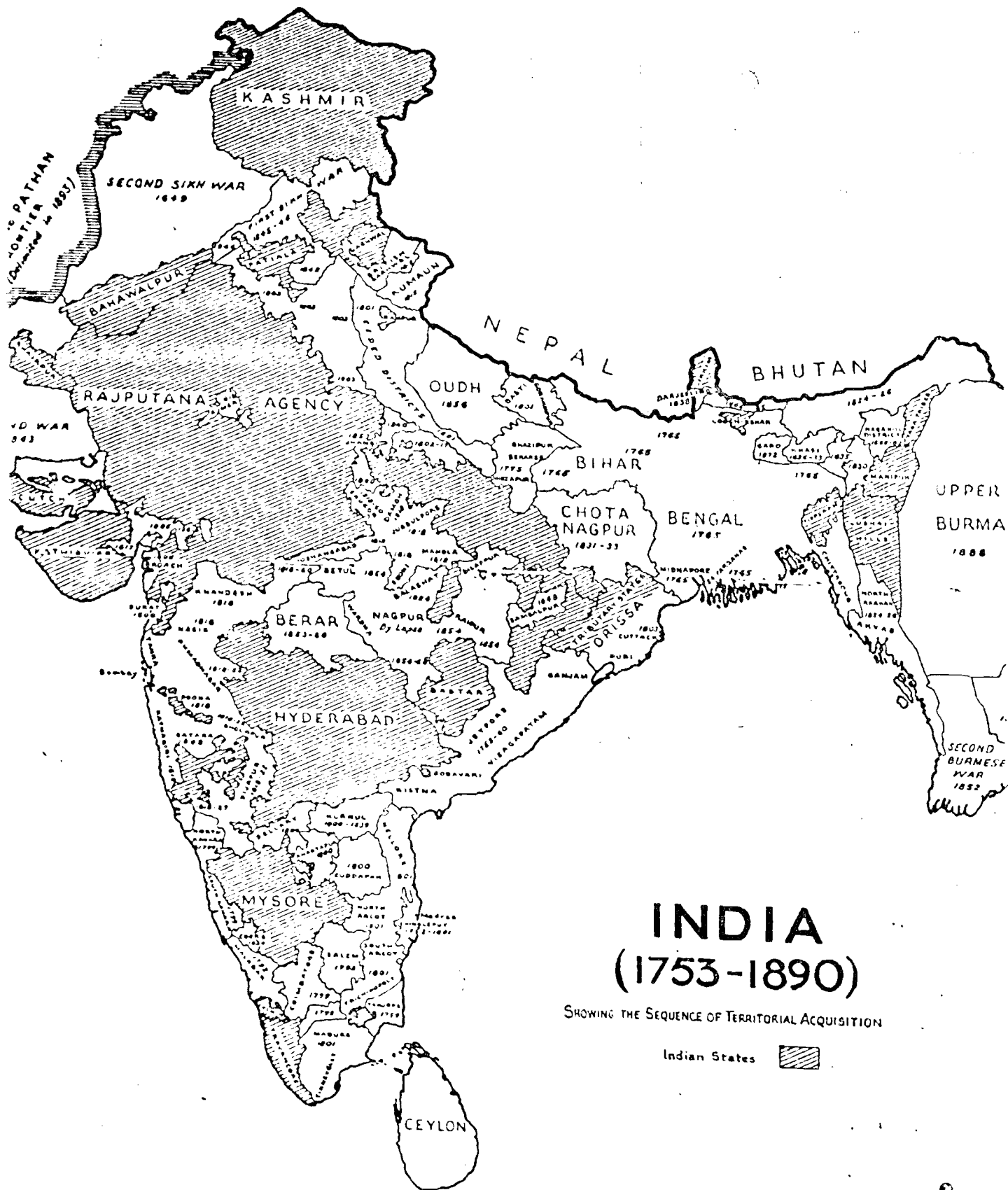
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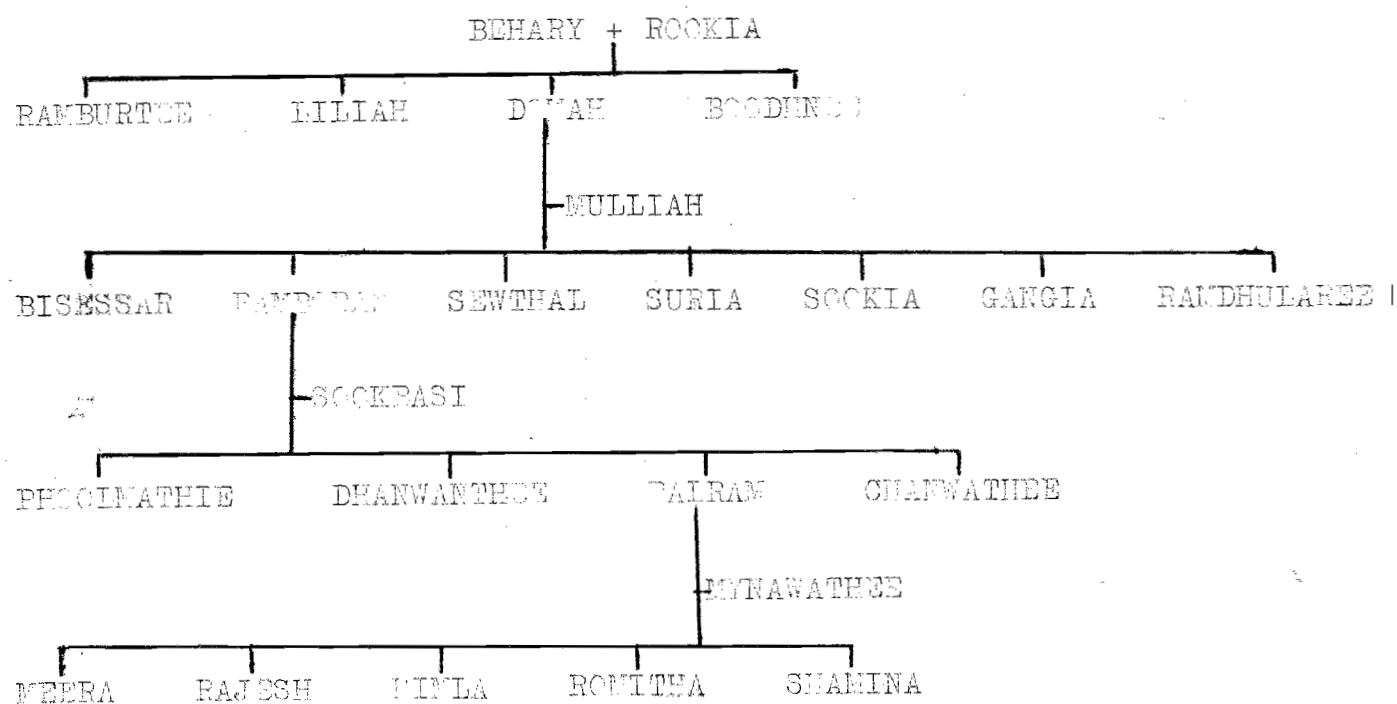
TABLE OF CONTENTS

	<u>PAGE</u>
(1) INTRODUCTION	3
(2) CONDITIONS IN NATAL	4
(3) CONDITIONS IN INDIA	5
(4) INDIA TO NATAL	6
(5) FIRST PLACE OF OCCUPATION AND SETTLEMENTS	7
(6) CONDITIONS OF SERVICE	7
(7) SUBSEQUENT PLACES OF SETTLEMENT AND OCCUPATION	8
(8) MARRIAGE AND CHILDREN	8
(9) SOCIAL, RELIGIOUS AND POLITICAL ACTIVITY	8
(10) CONCLUSION	9

LIST OF MAPS AND ILLUSTRATIONS

(1) INDIA (1753 - 1890)	I
(2) FAMILY TREE	2
(3) SHIP LIST	10
(4) FAMILY FROM INDIA	11
(5) FORM OF PROSPECTIVE IMMIGRANT	12
(6) CONDITIONS OF SERVICE	13
(7) THE TRURO	14
(8) PASS	15
(9) CONTRACT OF SERVICE	16
(10) CERTIFICATE OF DISCHARGE	17
(11) MEN AT WORK	18
(12) CERTIFICATE OF FREEDOM	19
(13) FREE INDIANS	20
(14) SOURCE LIST	21



FAMILY TREE

INTRODUCTION

"THE ORGANIZED SYSTEM OF INDENTURED INDIAN IMMIGRATIONS CAME ABOUT CHIEFLY AS A RESULT OF THE ABOLITION OF SLAVERY IN THE BRITISH EMPIRE IN 1834. (1) "SEVERAL ATTEMPTS WERE MADE TO INTRODUCE ALTERNATIVE SOURCES OF LABOUR BUT THIS HOWEVER PROVED TO BE A FUTILE ATTEMPT BECAUSE FREED SLAVES IN MANY AREAS REFUSED TO WORK.

AS A RESULT BRITISH COLONIES TURNED TOWARDS INDIA TO PROVIDE THIS DEFICIENT OF MUCH NEEDED LABOUR. ALL BRITISH COLONIES WHO WERE IN NEED OF LABOUR HAD TO ENTER INTO A SEPARATE AGREEMENT WITH THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA. THE CONDITIONS OF THESE AGREEMENTS WERE THAT ALL IMMIGRATION SHOULD BE VOLUNTARY, RECRUITERS LICENCED, PROTECTORS OF IMMIGRANTS STATIONED IN THE OLD AND NEW COUNTRIES AND CERTAIN INDENTURE CONDITIONS HAD TO BE ADHERED TO. IN ADDITION THE WAGES AND RATIONS OF IMMIGRANTS HAD TO BE SPECIFIED AND THEY WERE TO RECEIVE MEDICAL TREATMENT IN TIMES OF ILLNESS AND THE TERMS OF INDENTURED SERVICE HAD TO BE LAID DOWN.

DUE TO THE FACT THAT THE AGREEMENTS WERE ENTERED INTO SEPARATELY BETWEEN INDIA AND THE RECEIVING COLONIES, THEY DIFFERED FROM PLACE TO PLACE AND THEY WERE BY NO MEANS RIGIDLY ADHERED TO.

INDENTURED INDIANS, THUS IN TERMS OF THESE AGREEMENTS, WENT TO MAURITIUS IN 1842; JAMAICA, BRITISH GUIANA AND TRINIDAD IN 1844; ST. LUCIA IN 1856; GRANADA IN 1858 AND FINALLY TO NATAL IN 1860.

"AFTER NATAL WAS ANNEXED IN 1843 IT WAS FOUND TO BE NOTHING BUT A HARDLY YIELDING A PRODUCT WHICH COULD BE TURNED INTO A COMMERCIAL PROFIT. BY THE MIDDLE OF 1850, IT WAS ABUNDANTLY CLEAR THAT THE PROSPERITY OF NATAL LAY, NOT IN COTTON BUT IN SUGAR. THE COLONY'S SUCCESS, HOWEVER WAS TO BE LINKED WITH A CONTINUOUS SUPPLY OF CHEAP, RELIABLE LABOUR". (2) THE ACQUISITION OF CHEAP INDIAN INDENTURED LABOUR PROVED TO BE AN ANSWER TO THIS PROBLEM.

(1) M. PALMER: THE HISTORY OF INDIANS IN NATAL, p.4.

(2) T.P. NAIDOO (ed): THE SETTLERS (1860 - 1980), p.33.

CONDITIONS IN NATAL

THE ARRIVAL OF INDIANS IS CLOSELY LINKED TO THE EMERGENCE AND GIGANTIC GROWTH OF THE SOUTH AFRICAN SUGAR INDUSTRY.

IN 1851 EDMUND MOREWOOD ESTABLISHED THE FIRST SUGAR MILL ON THE NATAL NORTH COAST AND THEREAFTER SEVERAL OTHER SUGAR MILLS WERE ESTABLISHED. IF THE SUGAR INDUSTRY WAS TO PROSPER THERE WAS A NEED FOR AN ADEQUATE SUPPLY OF CHEAP LABOUR. PRIOR TO 1860 LABOUR WAS A SERIOUS PROBLEM IN SOUTH AFRICA AND AT ONE STAGE THERE WAS A NEED FOR 300 000 WORKERS ON THE FIELDS BUT THERE WAS ONLY 6 000. VARIOUS ATTEMPTS WERE MADE TO RELIEVE THIS SITUATION. IN 1851 THERE WAS A MOVE TO USE CONVICT LABOUR. IN 1852 THERE WERE SUGGESTIONS THAT THE IMMIGRATION OF YOUNG MEN FROM ENGLAND SHOULD BE ENCOURAGED. IN 1858 THE AMATONGAS FROM PORTUGUESE EAST AFRICA WERE BROUGHT OUT IN AN EFFORT TO RELIEVE THIS SITUATION BUT HOWEVER THIS WAS ALL IN VAIN.

THIS ACUTE LABOUR SHORTAGE WAS DUE TO THE UNRELIABILITY AND RELUCTANCE ON THE PART OF THE NATIVES TO SUPPLY THE NECESSARY LABOUR FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF FARMS AND INDUSTRIES. ACCORDING TO MABEL PALMER, "NATIVE MEN WERE QUITE UNACCUSTOMED TO REGULAR STEADY WORK AND HAD NOT THE VAGUEST CONCEPTION OF WHAT WAS MEANT BY A CONTRACT". (3) THE LOCAL NATIVES WERE NOMADIC HUNTSMEN WHOSE AGRICULTURE WAS ATTENDED TO BY WOMEN OF THE TRIBE. THE IMPOSITION OF TAXES ON THEM BY THE NATAL GOVERNMENT COULD HAVE FORCED THEM TO WORK BUT THE COLONIAL OFFICE WAS AGAINST, THUS ABANDONING THE HOPE THAT THE VERY LARGE SUPPLY OF ZULUS WOULD ALLEVIATE THIS LABOUR PROBLEM. THUS, "WITHOUT A LARGE AND RELIABLE LABOUR FORCE, SUGAR PLANTING WAS USELESS". (4) THIS EVENTUALLY COMPELLED THE FARMERS AND PLANTERS TO ADDRESS AN URGENT PETITION TO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL URGING THEM TO ACQUIRE IMMIGRANTS LABOUR FROM INDIA. AS A RESULT OF THIS LAWS 14 AND 15 OF 1859 WERE PASSED WITH REGARD TO INDIANS IMMIGRATION INTO NATAL. THE NATAL GOVERNMENT DISPATCHED ITS POSTMASTER-GENERAL, W.M. COLLINS TO MAKE THE NECESSARY ARRANGEMENTS. AFTER PROTRACTED NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA AN AGREEMENT WAS REACHED, THUS ALLOWING INDIAN LABOURERS TO COME TO NATAL,

(3) M. PALMER: THE HISTORY OF INDIANS IN NATAL, p.10.

(4) T.P. NAIDOO: THE SETTLERS (1860 - 1980), p.33.

PROVIDING STRICT CONDITIONS WERE CARRIED OUT. IN MADRAS COLLINS APPOINTED AN IMMIGRATION AGENT AND ARRANGED FOR THE CHARTERING OF THE FIRST SHIP WHICH REACHED NATAL ON 17 NOVEMBER 1860.

THIS FIRST SHIP WAS THE TRURO WITH 340 INDENTURED LABOURERS ON BOARD CONSISTING OF:

203 - MEN
87 - WOMEN
21 - BOYS
19 - GIRLS
10 - INFANTS

THE FIRST GROUP OF INDIANS WERE OF VARIOUS RELIGIOUS DOMINATIONS, THEY WERE:

101 - HINDUS
78 - MALABARS
61 - CHRISTIANS
16 - MUSLIMS
1 - RAJPUT
1 - MARATHEE

CONDITIONS IN INDIA

INDIA DURING THIS PERIOD WAS FACED WITH A GREAT DEAL OF PROBLEMS:

- (1) EVILS OF THE CASTE SYSTEM
- (2) INDUSTRIALIZATION CAUSED BY BRITISH IMPERIALISM
- (3) FAMINE
- (4) DROUGHT
- (5) LAND GRABBING

THE SUBJECT OF THIS RESEARCH PROJECT, DOMAH RUNGEE'S FAMILY COULD HAVE LEFT INDIA DUE TO ONE OF THESE FACTORS OR A COMBINATION OF THESE FACTORS.

DOMAH RUNGEE (5), BEING MY PATERNAL GREAT GRANDFATHER WAS A

(5) COLONIAL NUMBER: 12713

CHAMAR OR CHAMBAR. ACCORDING TO THIS CASTE THEY WERE QUITE LOW IN THE SOCIAL STRUCTURE OF INDIA AND WERE REGARDED AS ONE OF THE UNTOUCHABLES. CHAMAR OR CHAMBAR WERE SKINNERS, TANNERS, COBBLERS AND WORKERS IN LEATHER. THIS WAS A WORKING CASTE AND IS DERIVED FROM A SANSKRIT WORD MEANING WORKING IN LEATHER. CHAMARS WERE DISCRIMINATED AGAINST A GREAT DEAL IN INDIA EG. "THE SCHOOLS MAINTAINED AT PUBLIC COST, WERE PRACTICALLY CLOSED TO SUCH IMPURE CASTES AS THE CHAMARS AND MAHARS. (6) DOMAH WAS FROM THE DISTRICT OF TURHOOT IN BIHARR AREA? AND THIS AREA PRACTISED A FORM OF WORSHIP CALLED RAIDASISM.

WITH THE ADVENT OF BRITISH IMPERIALISM AND THE INTRODUCTION OF INDUSTRIALIZATION, TRADITIONALLY HOME INDUSTRIES SUFFERED. DOMAH'S FATHER BEING CHAMAR WOULD HAVE MOST PROBABLY WORKED WITH LEATHER AND COULD HAVE BEEN AFFECTED INDUSTRIALIZATION.

INDIA WAS PLAGUED BY A SERIES OF DROUGHT AND FAMINE WHICH COULD HAVE DROVE PEOPLE LIKE MY SUBJECT TO EMIGRATE TO NATAL.

ANOTHER FACTOR WAS THAT MANY OF THE UNTOUCHABLES WERE FORCED INTO SELLING THEIR LANDS TO THE RICH. AS A RESULT OF THIS MANY OF THEM LOST A GREAT DEAL AND HOPED TO START A NEW LIFE IN NATAL.

ACCORDING TO MABEL PALMER, "THE COMING OF THE INDIANS TO NATAL WAS NO SPONTANEOUS UNCONTROLLED MOVEMENT OF ADVENTUROUS INDIVIDUALS SEEKING A BETTER LIVELIHOOD THAN THEIR HOME COUNTRY GAVE THEM. IT WAS PART OF AN ELABORATE SYSTEM ORGANIZED AND CONTROLLED BY THE GOVERNMENTS OF GREAT BRITAIN AND NATAL (7) "THIS IN FACT COULD HAVE BEEN ANOTHER FACTOR WHERE IMMIGRANTS SOMETIMES HAD NO SAY IN THE MATTER.

INDIA TO NATAL

THE EMIGRATION TO NATAL WAS TEMPORARILY STOPPED DUE TO THE WORLD WIDE COLLAPSE OF MARKETS AFTER THE END OF THE AMERICAN CIVIL WAR. ALSO ANOTHER FACTOR DUE TO THIS STOPPAGE WAS BECAUSE OF REPORTS OF INDENTURED LABOURERS RETURNING TO INDIA AFTER THEIR PERIOD OF INDENTURE. THESE REPORTS WERE UNFAVOURABLE

(6). G.S. GHURYE: CASTE AND RACE IN INDIA, p.12.
 (7). M. PALMER: THE HISTORY OF INDIANS IN NATAL, p.4.

DUE TO HARSH CONDITIONS AND ILL - TREATMENT OF LABOURERS ON THE NATAL CANE FIELDS. "IN VIEW OF THESE COMPLAINTS, THE INDIANS GOVERNMENT AND THE COMMISSIONER FOR LAND AND EMIGRATION IN LONDON REFUSED TO AUTHORIZE ANY FURTHER EMIGRATION UNTIL BETTER ARRANGEMENTS HAD BEEN MADE FOR THE TREATMENT OF INDENTURED LABOURERS IN NATAL". (8)

IN 1875, THE STREAM OF IMMIGRANTS TO NATAL RESUMED AND DURING THE NEXT TWELVE YEARS NEARLY 30 000 INDIANS WORKERS ENTERED NATAL. IT WAS ON 13 MAY 1876 THAT MY SUBJECT AND HIS FAMILY CAME TO NATAL. THEY HAD LEFT INDIA FROM THE PORT OF CALCUTTA SOMETIME DURING EARLY 1876, ON BOARD THE ATALANTA, THE PORT OF ENTRY BEING DURBAN. ON BOARD THE ATALANTA WERE:

483	-	MEN
192	-	WOMEN
<u>79</u>	-	CHILDREN
<u>754</u>	-	TOTAL

FIRST PLACE OF SETTLEMENT AND OCCUPATION

RUNGEE BEHARY (9) WAS INDENTURED TOGETHER WITH HIS FAMILY TO A LITTLE KNOWN SUGAR ESTATE CALLED SPENCE AND COMPANY. THIS ESTATE BEING ON THE NATAL SOUTH COAST IN REUNION NEAR THE MODERN DAY ISIPINGO AREA.

IN TERMS OF THE CONTRACT DOMAH RUNGEE WAS INDENTURED AT THE EARLY AGE OF FIVE YEARS. CHILDREN WERE PAID IN PROPORTION WHILST WOMEN WERE PAID HALF THE EARNING OF A MAN. IT CAN BE ASSUMED THAT THE RUNGEE FAMILY EXPERIENCED BETTER WORKING CONDITIONS THAN THE EARLY INDIANS LABOURERS. THE RUNGEE FAMILY DID NOT REINDURE AFTER THEIR PERIOD OF INDENTURE HAD EXPIRED AND THEY BECAME "FREE INDIANS" BECAUSE THEY PAID THEIR THREE POUND TAX.

CONDITIONS OF SERVICE

IT IS IMPORTANT AT THIS STAGE TO MAKE MENTION OF THE LABOURER'S CONDITIONS OF SERVICE. PROVISION WAS MADE FOR THE DRAWING UP

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- (8). B. PARCHAI: THE SOUTH AFRICAN INDIANS QUESTION, p. 7.
 (9). COLONIAL NUMBER I2709

OF CONTRACTS BETWEEN IMMIGRANTS AND EMPLOYERS. IT WAS AGREED THAT EACH INDIAN WHO CAME OUT AS AN INDENTURED LABOURER WOULD HAVE TO COMPLETE FIVE YEARS "INDUSTRIAL SERVICE" AT A WAGE OF NOT LESS THAN TEN SHILLING A MONTH. AS THEY WORKED EACH YEAR THEY WOULD BE ENTITLED TO ONE SHILLING EXTRA. WOMEN WERE TO RECEIVE HALF THAT AMOUNT AND CHILDREN A PROPORTION. AFTER A PERIOD OF THREE YEARS THEY COULD PURCHASE EXEMPTION FROM SERVICE FOR THE REMAINING PERIOD FOR FIVE POUNDS. DURING THEIR PERIOD OF INDENTURE THEY WERE ENTITLED TO FOOD RATIONS, CLOTHING, LODGING AND FREE MEDICAL ATTENTION? ALL PROVIDED BY THE EMPLOYER. THEY WERE CONTRACTED TO WORK FOR NINE HOURS A DAY, SIX DAYS A WEEK. AFTER A PERIOD OF TEN YEARS IN NATAL THE IMMIGRANT WAS ENTITLED TO A FREE PASSAGE BACK TO INDIA OR LAND EQUIVALENT TO THE PRICE OF THE PASSAGE

SUBSEQUENT PLACES OF SETTLEMENT AND OCCUPATION

AFTER THEIR TERM OF INDENTURE HAD EXPIRED WITH SPENCE AND COMPANY THE RUNGEE FAMILY MOVED TO THE UMLAAS AREA. THIS AREA BEING IN BETWEEN THE PRESENT TOWNSHIPS OF UMLAZI AND CHATSWORTH. THE LAND THAT THEY LIVED ON WAS LEASED. DOMAH AND HIS FATHER NOW WORKED FOR THE UMLAAS WATER WORKS POPULARLY KNOWN AS THE "SEVEN STANKS". HERE THEY WERE INVOLVED WITH MAINTAINENCE EG. CLEANING FILTRATION TANKS AND CUTTING GRASS. AFTER A PERIOD OF TIME DOMAH BECAME A SIRDAR (GANG BOSS), A POSITION HE HELD FOR ABOUT TWENTY FIVE YEARS. HE LIVED IN THE UMLAAS TILL HIS DEATH.

MARRIAGE AND CHILDREN

DOMAH RUNGEE MARRIED MULLIAH, THE DATE OF THE MARRIAGE IS NOT KNOWN. STEMMING FROM THIS MARRIAGE SEVEN CHILDREN WERE BORN, THREE BOYS AND FOUR GIRLS. THE BOYS BEING, BISESSAR, SEWTHAL AND RAMBORAN (MY GRANDFATHER), AND THE GIRLS BEING, SURIA, SOOKIA, GANGIA AND RAMDHULAREE.

SOCIAL, RELIGIOUS AND POLITICAL ACTIVITIES

DOMAH WAS FLUENT IN THE LANGUAGES, ENGLISH, HINDI, TELEGU AND ZULU. HE WAS THE HINDI TEACHER OF THE LOCAL YOUTH. BUT WAS NOT INVOLVED IN ANY POLITICAL ACTIVITY. HE WAS A POPULAR MAN AMONGST

THE LOCAL ZULUS BECAUSE THEY PAID TRIBUTE TO HIM BY GIVING HIM HAND OUTS. BEING A SIRDAR PEOPLE LOOKED UPON HIM TO SOLVE THEIR PROBLEMS, AND THIS HE DID. DOMAH DIED SOMETIME IN THE LATE 1940'S AND EARLY 1950'S.

CONCLUSION

THE COMING TO NATAL OF PEOPLE LIKE DOMAH RUNGEE MARKED A TREMENDOUS BOOST TO THE SUGAR INDUSTRY. BUT HOWEVER THIS CAN BE LIKENED TO A SYSTEM OF SLAVERY IN VIEW OF THE ACTIONS OF SOME OF THE FARMERS WITH REGARD TO THEIR LABOURERS EG. MEN WORKED LONGER THAN THE ALLOTTED NINE HOURS A DAY, WOMEN IN ADVANCED STAGES OF PREGNANCIES HAD TO WORK UNDER HARSH CONDITIONS, ONE FARMER EMPLOYED A POLICE FORCE TO RESTRICT ANY OF HIS LABOURERS FROM SEEING A MAGISTRATE TO LAY A COMPLAINT. IT WAS THE DUTY OF THE PROTECTOR OF IMMIGRANTS WHO WAS TO SEE THAT THE TERMS OF THE AGREEMENTS WERE CARRIED OUT AND TO REMEDY ANY LEGITIMATE GRIEVANCES OF THE IMMIGRANTS. IT IS THROUGH HIS REPORTS THAT RECORDS OF LABOURERS WERE KEPT AND THUS ENABLES US TO MAKE A PROJECT OF THIS NATURE POSSIBLE. THE MODERN DAY INDIAN PLAYS MUCH A VITAL ROLE IN THE ECONOMY OF SOUTH AFRICA AS DID OUR ANCESTORS.

COLONIAL NUMBER	I2709	I2710	I2711	I2712	I2713	^{page II} I2714
NAME SURNAME	RUNGEE BEHARY	ROOKIA MOORKOO	RAMBURTEE RUNGEE	LILIAH RUNGEE	DOMAH RUNGEE	BOODHNEE RUNGEE
AGE	35	27	13	7	5	3
SEX	MALE	FEMALE	FEMALE	FEMALE	MALE	FEMALE
CASTE	CHAMAR	CHAMAR	CHAMAR	CHAMAR	CHAMAR	CHAMAR
FEET INCHES	5 1,42	5 0,63	GROWING	GROWING	GROWING	GROWING
VILLAGE	THULSE					
THANA	MOZUFERPORE					
DISTRICT	TIRHOOT					
MARKINGS	NONE	NONE	NONE	NONE	NONE	NONE
REMARKS	ALL VACCINATED					

Dep't No.

COLONIAL EMIGRATION FORM NO. 8
FORM OF AGREEMENT FOR INTENDING EMIGRANT.
Particulars of Emigrant securing a contract for service in NATAL.

REGISTRATION		EMIGRANT		DEPENDENTS		SEX		AGE		OCCUPATION		RESIDENCE		NAME	
Date	Number	Name	Former name	Name	Relationship to Emigrant	Sex	Age	Color	Occupation	District	Thana	Place of Birth	Name	Thana	Place of Birth
1911	47	Wanda Singh				m	21	Black	Farmer						

I agree to emigrate on the conditions of service specified on the reverse.

Executed in my presence

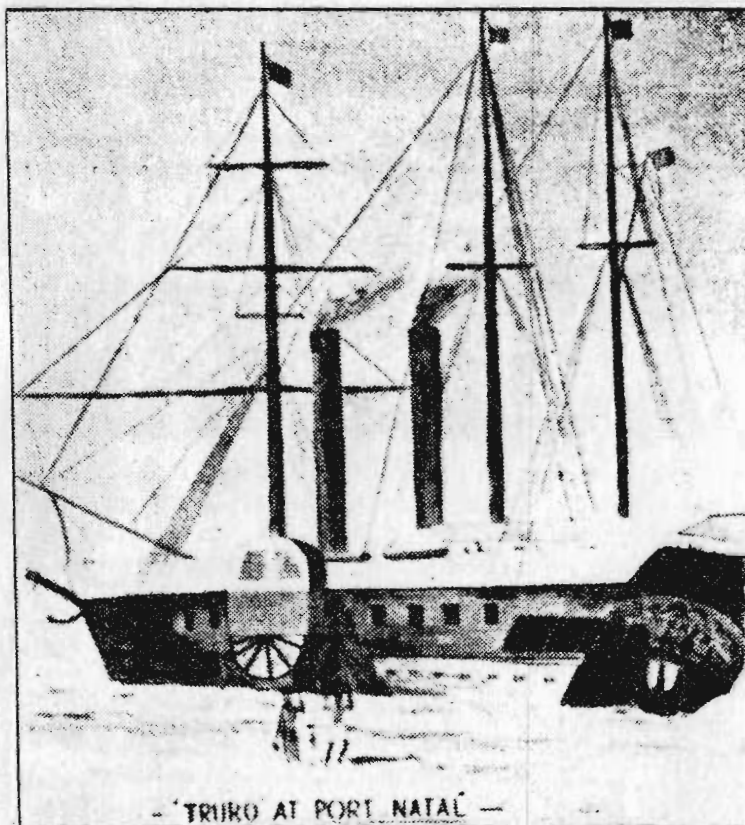
Registering Officer

Done at

N. B.—This form is to be filled up in the Office of the Registering Officer in English in duplicate.

ROBERT W. G. [illegible]
Government [illegible]

THE TRURO



The first ship arrives: The s.s. Truro anchored off the South Beach, Durban, on November 16, 1860, bringing indentured Indian labourers to Natal.

Pass under Act 17, 1895

No. 9308

D



Pass the Indian Immigrant

Richard

Colonial Number

25830

Sex

M

Age

27

Height

4 9

Bodily Marks

Scar Right side

...he having paid the Annual License of (£3) Three Pounds

sterling, as required by Section 6, Law 17, 1895.

This Pass expires on the

23rd April 1905

and must then be renewed.

Issued at the

R.M. Office

*Mumbai**24 June 190**W.S.*

R.M.

(MAN'S)
**CONTRACT OF SERVICE WITH INDIAN
 IMMIGRANTS.**

We it Remembered,

That on this 23rd day of April
 in the Year of our Lord One Thousand Eight Hundred and Eighty Nine
 and Telucksing of Surbani Indian Immigrant
 No. Bandhu appeared before me,
41698 Louis H. Mason Protector of Immigrants,
 and in my presence signed (or made his mark) to the following Contract of Service:—

The said Telucksing agrees to
 hire the services of the said Indian Immigrant, and the said Indian Immigrant agrees to
 render the said Telucksing
 his services in the capacity of General Labourer for Five Years, commencing on the
23rd day of April, in the Year of our Lord
 One Thousand Eight Hundred and Eighty Nine

And it is further agreed between the said Parties, that the said Indian Immigrant shall be employed as above for six days in each week, save as in such Law is mentioned, and that the hours of labour shall not be more than nine hours daily, between sunrise and sunset, with a break of at least an hour for

And it is further agreed between the said Parties, that the said Telucksing shall
 pay to the said Indian Immigrant, as such servant as aforesaid, wages at and after the rate
 of TEN SHILLINGS for the first year, ELEVEN SHILLINGS for the second year, TWELVE
 SHILLINGS for the third year, THIRTEEN SHILLINGS for the fourth year, FOURTEEN
 SHILLINGS for the fifth year, for the remuneration of the services of the said Indian Immigrant, and that such wages shall be paid on the first day of each month.

And lastly, the said Telucksing
 doth hereby bind and oblige himself to give, grant, and provide, to and for the said Indian Immigrant, and for such family as may be allotted, good and comfortable lodging, wholesome and suitable food, and proper medical attendance and medicines, during the period for which this present contract is made, and otherwise to observe and fulfil all the conditions and obligations of the Coolie Laws of the Colony so far as the same are applicable to this Contract and Agreement.

Bandhu His X mark.

The preceding Agreement was signed by the above-named Parties in my presence, on the day and year above written, voluntarily, the same being, as far as I am able to judge, fully understood by them respectively.

L. H. Mason
 Protector of Immigrants.

NATAL.

Duplicate Certificate of Discharge.

SCHEDULE H. (SECTION 108).

No. 6921

18th Oct. 1897.

I HEREBY CERTIFY that Proopia
Immigrant No. 6921 has duly completed his term of indenture
of 5 years in terms of Indian Immigration Law No. 25, 1891, and is
released from his obligation to perform further service in this Colony under
that law.

DESCRIPTION:—

Name Proopia

Age 51 years

Height 5 Feet 11 Inches.

Marks Scar back of neck

Date of Arrival in Colony July 17th

Ship Lion

Last Employer W. H. Harcourt

OFFICE OF THE PROTECTOR OF INDIAN IMMIGRANTS,
DURBAN, NATAL.

W. H. Harcourt
Protector of Indian Immigrants.

CERTIFICATE OF DISCHARGE

MEN AT WORK



Indentured Indians are shown working in the cane field. Instead of the stipulated nine hours, they were made to work eleven.

CERTIFICATE OF FREEDOM

This is a facsimile of the Certificate issued to Indians upon completion of five years of industrial labour. The document was referred to as "Certificate of Freedom" and failure to produce it rendered ex-indentured labourers to immediate arrest and imprisonment as vagrants. The Passes and the Certificates of Industrial Service were the two most important documents in possession of Indians in the early days.

NATAL. *7.77801*

Certificate of Industrial Service,

UNDER LAW 2 OF 1870, SEC. 56.

THIS IS TO CERTIFY that *Muniamma*
 Official No. *30655* Father's Name *Nardyanasami*
 Indian Immigrant, having completed her indenture, is hereby released from
 further Industrial Service.

DESCRIPTION:—

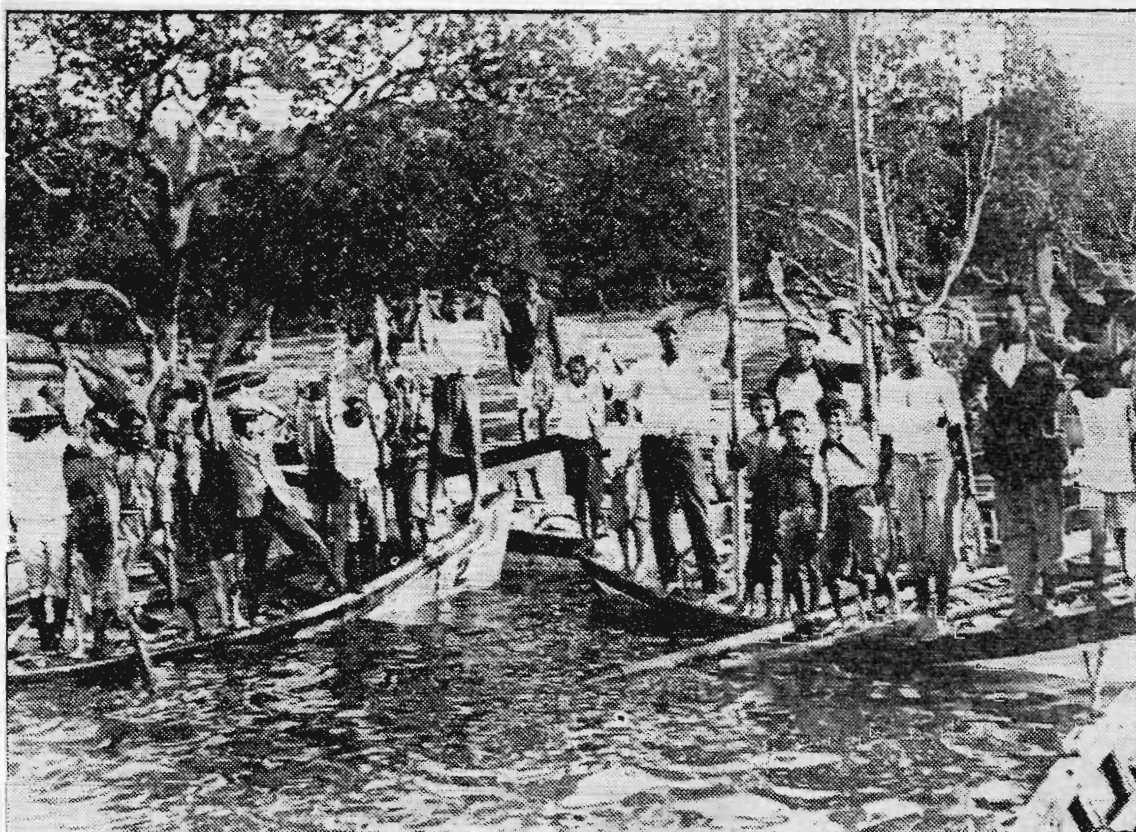
Age *9 years* *30* *17 1/2*
 Height *4 ft 10 in* inches. *21 1/2*
 Bodily Marks *Nil*
 Date of Arrival in Colony *April 23rd 1884.*
 Ship *Andoni XTE*
 Last Employer *G. S. Smith*

DEPARTMENT OF IMMIGRATION,
 DURBAN, NATAL.
May 2nd 1889.

L. M. ...
 Protector of Immigrants.

FREE INDIANS

Indentured labourers on becoming free, began market gardening, hawking or fishing. Indians are born fishermen and took to this occupation with great enthusiasm.



SOURCE LIST

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